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We beg leave to state that we decline to return or to enter into correspondence as to rejected communications; and to this rule we can make no exception. Manuscripts not acknowledged within four weeks are rejected.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

It was known at the end of last week that the Duke of Cambridge was seriously ill and the bulletins of Wednesday had prepared the world for Thursday morning's news. Up to the last few months he had maintained that busy vigour which was the mark of his old age as of his youth. Even in 1895 when he retired from the position of Commander-in-Chief he spoke of himself with natural pride as still possessed of enough vigour for his work. Those who have since heard him speak at any of the many charities which he was eager to support will recognise the surprising freshness of his old age and the manly common sense of his character. His active life covers the whole period of the last reign. He was two months older than Queen Victoria and became a colonel a few years before she came to the throne. The Duke was through the Crimea. At Balaclava he was a spectator; but he was more active at the obscure battle of Inkerman. In one of the assaults about the Sandbag battery, the disappearance of a large body of his beloved Guards caused him marked uneasiness. It was then that an aide-de-camp urged him not to be anxious—"The Guards, Sir", said he, "are sure to turn up". It may be that he was appointed Commander-in-Chief too young and retained in office when too old, but through the whole period of forty years when he was head of the army he kept the admiration of all who worked with him for his direct good sense and freedom from personal prejudice. Few men serve so full or useful a period of citizenship. Among the many tributes to his work spoken in the Houses of Parliament and in the press too great a stress has been laid on his conservative tendencies. Those who have had intimate knowledge of his work at the War Office are aware that he anticipated in a remarkable way very many of the latest changes.

No news of importance has come through from the Far East except more detailed and to some extent contradictory accounts of the latest attack on Port Arthur; and the general nature of the battle is now decipherable. On Wednesday the 9th at midnight a Japanese destroyer flotilla proceeded off Port Arthur and one division of four boats set about laying mines whilst the other of three kept watch; in the early morning six Russian boats attacked the boats and a sharp engage-

ment ensued at close quarters, but on their way back to harbour, two of the Russian destroyers fell in with the mine-laying division and one of them was disabled and taken and subsequently sunk. The Japanese fleet closed up on the 10th and subjected the fortress to a three-hours' bombardment, but the mine-laying of the previous night must be considered to have been the main undertaking. The Japanese claim to have carried out that operation successfully, but if its purpose was to block the mouth of the harbour, the object has not been accomplished, otherwise the "Novik" and "Bayan" could not have proceeded out to cover the retreat of the Russian destroyers. The cruiser squadron which the Admiral detached to San Shan Tan appears to have done a useful bit of work in demolishing the original station and mine dépôt there. The activity of the Russian torpedo flotilla shows that Admiral Makaroff is exercising a bracing influence on his people, but the rumour that the Port Arthur fleet has broken through the blockade may be at once dismissed as too improbable for belief.

General Kuropatkin has started on his journey to take up supreme command in the East and he is reported to have said that he would not begin definite operations till July. Of the progress of the Japanese troops in Korea we receive now little accurate information. The landing at Chemulpo and in the Ping Yang inlet seems to have been carried out, in the face of considerable difficulties, and with mechanical precision; and there is no longer reason to doubt that a general advance, to be hurried on when the weather improves, is being made towards the Yalu. The political position is not much altered by Russia's action in declaring Korea a belligerent. From the point of view of Korea as a nation there is a certain ironic pathos in the declaration.

A very important pronouncement has been made by the Indian Government on the subject of public education, which has occupied Lord Curzon's attention for the last five years. The "cautious reform" with which he prudently started seems to have ended in some sweeping measures of reconstruction. The telegraphic summary indicates that they will follow the lines suggested by recent inquiries which have dealt exhaustively with the subject. Primary education has been starved and neglected: it will be fed and encouraged. Secondary education has largely expanded: it will be made more practical and efficient. University education has become degraded: it will be purified and placed on a higher level. All education is to be delivered from the baneful influence of the universal examination system

which reduces teaching in every grade to cram and catechism.

Public appointments are no longer to be the prize of competitive examinations. Reuter's message would unfortunately leave it to be inferred that such a method of selection has hitherto been generally in force in India. Such is not the case. An educational qualification has no doubt been required and public standard examinations have been utilised for that purpose. But the instances in which public posts have been regularly offered to open competition have been comparatively few and restricted to certain departments, while the principle has always been opposed by the best of our Indian administrators. In justice to them it is unfortunate that notices of the great reforms now introduced by Lord Curzon should be disfigured by references to the abolition of the mandarin system which never existed.

A note referring to the introduction of Chinese into South Africa was published by the Colonial Office on Saturday, and owing to a still unexplained looseness of wording its contents produced something like general consternation. Responsible people talked of a grave constitutional incident, and went back three reigns for a parallel. The announcement gave out that "The King did not disallow" the Bill, but that postponement was necessary: and as if to emphasise the gravity of the position a number of urgent and special pleas from the Crown Colony in question were appended. Of course the King had no thought of vetoing any representative wish of the colony. The postponement of the operation of the Act of Parliament is made necessary by technical difficulties concerned with the Chinese themselves, who after the abominable slurs that have been cast on the nation, in recent discussions, might very well be expected to raise a host of difficulties on their own behalf. The Bill may be expected to become law within a reasonable limit of time. In the meanwhile the Liberal party, with astonishing neglect of the chief principles of Liberal politics, are making much capital out of the measure in the constituencies and Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman is to make the refusal to disallow the Regulations a subject for a vote of censure on the Government.

How is it that apparently no notice has been taken in this country of a remarkable speech on the tariff question delivered some time ago by Mr. Shaw, the American Secretary to the Treasury? Mr. Shaw favours the negotiation of a rational reciprocity treaty between the United States and Canada in order to defeat Mr. Chamberlain's "scheme for depriving the United States of the mighty trade now conducted with the United Kingdom". It is of the first importance that a speech on such lines, showing as it does how alive the Americans are to the necessity of coming to an arrangement with Canada before imperial preferential tariffs can be inaugurated, should not be ignored on this side. Yet so far as we are aware, not a single newspaper correspondent in America whose business it is to keep England informed of the drift of American public opinion reported it. The Americans are undoubtedly keen to secure a commercial treaty with Canada which would render impossible close relations with the Mother Country. Their anxiety is eloquent proof of the consciousness of the foreigner that a British preferential tariff would hit him hard. Canada realises the risks she would run from a too intimate commercial understanding with the Republic, and will not encourage advances intended not to assist Canada but to safeguard American commerce at the expense of Great Britain.

The decision of the United States Supreme Court in the Northern Securities case appeal forms an important chapter in the history of the American trust system. The Northern Securities Company was an amalgamation of the systems of the Northern Pacific the Great Northern and other companies, and its general effect was to destroy competition over large inter-state areas. It was therefore attacked in pursuance of President Roosevelt's anti-trust declarations as a breach of the Sherman Laws: the case was considered as a test.

In the Circuit Court the combination was declared illegal: and this decision has been upheld on appeal but by a very narrow majority; five judges against four. The legal fight is however by no means over; and probably other cases will follow either with the object of securing in similar circumstances a majority on the other side, or of limiting the application of the decision. Moreover it is evident from the observations of the majority opinion that the decision will not cover many amalgamations, to which those who hold that the public ought to be protected object. That of course throws the whole question into the arena of political discussion. Opinion is very much divided, but it is significant that in spite of the decision the financial personages interested say that there are still ways and means of evading the Supreme Court's judgment.

The Social Democrats in the Reichstag are taking full advantage of the opportunity presented by the Herero rising in South-west Africa to oppose and, as Herr Bebel would contend, expose German colonial enterprise. He traces the trouble with the Hereros, which he estimates will cost the Imperial Government £2,000,000, to the exactions of the colonists who have adopted usurious methods in their dealings with the natives. The colonists on the other hand attribute the rising to the missionaries, and if the charges brought against the colonists by Herr Bebel are in any measure well founded it is not impossible that the efforts of the missionaries to protect the natives have, though unintentionally, encouraged the revolt. Colour is certainly imparted to the Socialist view by the statements made in other quarters that the British have turned the native into the spoilt child of South Africa and caused discontent among the German Colony.

If the second inquiry into the Dreyfus Affair proceeds quietly, monotonously, without provoking the smallest anger or curiosity, the newest Affair—the Martin Affair—has caused something of a commotion in Paris. Although Prince Itchijo's innocence has never been questioned, his predecessor at the Japanese Legation (who left only a few weeks ago) is declared by the usually reliable "Echo de Paris" and "Petit Journal" to have bought naval secrets from Martin for the sum of 14,000 francs, and this accusation, which has not been denied, has provoked deep consternation. The extreme Nationalists demand the abolition of all naval and military attachés, and the immediate recall of Prince Itchijo; but it is plain that M. Delcassé is merely amused at their campaign. Martin probably was a traitor, but at the Ministry of Marine it has been stated over and over again that he was not in a position to procure documents of importance. Prince Itchijo's predecessor, then, got little for his 14,000 francs, if he gave or got anything at all. At the present moment the Martin Affair, like all French Affairs, consists chiefly of contradictions. Martin has already declared that the incriminating letters attributed to him are forgeries. In a week or two we may have "Speranza-Blanche" telegrams and a Veiled Lady. Perhaps the most amusing accusation up to now has come from M. Rochefort, who states that Martin was "ordered" by M. Pelletan to dispose of naval secrets and go shares with him in the profits. Also, M. Rochefort regards M. Pelletan's silent acceptance of the charge as proof positive of his guilt.

The defeat of the Government last Tuesday over the Erse language question by a snap vote was a very important thing indeed—from the point of view of Sir A. Acland Hood. Mr. Churchill flung up his order paper with delight, so it was said—but he appears to have omitted to stand on the bench. Why should he be so glad? Mr. Lloyd-George and Sir Charles Dilke are believed quite to have made up their minds not to suffer any interlopers to get into the next Liberal Government. But, as a fact, apart from Ireland which by the defeat of the Government loses £100, the incident is of concern to nobody but the Whips. With them it is a matter of reputation, and we do not wonder that the chief Whip on this occasion looked angry and crestfallen. The rank and file have been severely taken to task by the press for dallying over their coffee and cigars at the Carlton. It appears that Mr. T. P.

O'Connor or "M.A.P." reported them as so dallying. The Carlton must be as public to-day as the smoking room of the National Liberal! We rather sympathise with the dallying cigar and coffee Tories: they cannot be expected to hang about Westminster day and night: it is not as if every member had a leader's room to himself where he could skim sixpenny magazines and French novels to his heart's content.

The Liberal success in Dorset was no surprise. The majority was only 91 in 1900 and Mr. Van Raalte came forward as a supporter of the Government compromise. Whether the public is or is not ready to accept preferential taxation, the constituencies will never appreciate, and never have appreciated or understood, compromise. But it is remarkable, when a majority of 91 was turned into a majority of 820, that Mr. Van Raalte polled four hundred more votes than Mr. Sturt in 1900. Mr. Lyell will be an addition to the intellectual strength of the House of Commons. Few people have more conscientiously prepared themselves for Parliament. Mr. Lyell took the History school at Oxford with that intention and belonged to a set, of whom Lord Donoughmore was one, who cultivated politics with more than the "young Oxford" zeal. His subsequent work in the East End of London and his "stumping of" the empire have taught him what should be useful in the House. His danger is youth.

Monday's paper left us at first in some doubt as to whether Lord Rosebery was playing Tweedledum to Sir William Harcourt's Tweedledee, or whether it was the reverse. But as Lord Rosebery spoke on Saturday and Sir William Harcourt's letter appeared on Monday we must take it that it was a mere coincidence that both should take the same line about Mr. Wharton's spirited-away amendment. Sir William Harcourt is very sorrowful about Mr. Balfour not being master in his own house. Perhaps it is natural in one who, the last time he was in office, persisted in being master in another man's house.

When Lord Rosebery's audience laughed at the "two voices, feebly bleating voices" did they recognise the literary allusion and was Lord Rosebery himself thinking of the Wordsworth sonnet or of the parody, in which one of the voices does actually bleat? If we take it of the original Mr. Chamberlain may accept the soft asperion. "Two voices are there; one is of the sea" would very well apply to the Colonial Secretary whose inspiration first came from the colonies. There is perhaps nothing typical of the mountain in Mr. Balfour's voice; but we find the application to Lord Rosebery and others in the sonnet's sestet. "What sorrow would it be", if the mountain should thunder and the ocean bellow but "neither awful voice be heard by thee", which indeed is very much the case.

Admiration for the literary quality of Lord Rosebery's speeches—and it is long since he has so revelled in finely pencilled phrases as in his Newcastle speech—accents the deficiency in political weight. After Chesterfield he was spoken of generally as the next Prime Minister; it is now probable that he will not take any place in the next Liberal Ministry. Partly it is that he has a petulant remembrance of old failure or, as he once said, treachery; partly that he has lost the ambition and the interest. But he is still the best decoy of the Liberals and, we must believe, so far acquainted with the counsels of the party as to give official or semi-official authority to his statements of Liberal intentions. He states categorically that the next Liberal Government intends to deprive religious teaching of every denominational element; for "restoring the schools to popular control" can mean nothing else.

The education debate in the Commons was an ignoble affair, even Mr. Haldane and Sir Edward Grey striving to defend the nonconformist law-breakers. To such indignity will party necessity compel a man. The one bright exception to this dark debate was Lord Hugh Cecil's closing appeal to religious feeling. No one—not even Mr. Balfour—raises debate to so lofty a plane as Lord Hugh Cecil at his highest.

It is good for the country to be told as well as the House that the real contest—the struggle that is closing in—is between religion and materialism: Christianity will have to fight for its place in the world: for the forces of secularism are rapidly gathering. God or no God will be the issue. In comparison with that struggle, the differences between the Ultramontane and the Ultra-Protestant sink into insignificance: and this is the moment nonconformist Christians choose for hampering and hindering Christian teaching in the national schools.

The needs of University College, as assessed last year by Sir Albert Rücker, have been more than fulfilled by the generosity of Sir Donald Currie. He wrote to Lord Rosebery and Lord Reay on Wednesday offering £100,000 for the carrying out of the scheme by which University College shall be incorporated with London University. Before this consummation, almost necessary for the common efficiency of London education, University College had to find buildings and set up on a separate foundation for the medical school. Sir Donald Currie allots £80,000 of his gift for this purpose and the remaining £20,000 is put aside for erecting a home for nurses in connexion with University Hospital and lodgings for students engaged in obstetric cases. Sir Donald Currie's three daughters offer a further sum of £2,500 for adding to the equipment of the nurses' home more of the "untaught graces of life". The gift is as thoughtful as it is generous; and one may add, rare. It is after all something of a national disgrace that McGill University in Montreal—to take one instance—which serves the needs of a population about half that of London should be equipped with a perfection utterly unapproached in any English College or University.

Discussing the Army Estimates on Friday, Mr. Arnold-Forster said that he could not go further than he had already gone in explaining his attitude to the Esher report. In fact he went much further, at least by implication. The tone of his speech towards the criticism of the Committee, as apart from its recommendations, was almost acid; and he made it quite clear that towards part II. of the recommendations the Government's suspension of judgment was due to dislike of some of its features as well to the necessity of waiting for the decision of the Committee appointed to inquire into the distribution of forces. It is now at any rate clear that the scheme is hung up for the time. Of course effect has already been given to a great part; but it is to be hoped that the Government will not be influenced by the Committee's concealed demand for the whole scheme and nothing but the whole. It was made in a hurry and by a few men, at least as fallible and almost as much under pressure as were Mr. Brodrick and his counsellors.

We earnestly commend Lord Haliburton's weighty and temperate letter in the "Times" to the attention of the Government and the so-called Parliamentary reformers of the army. Few can speak with greater authority; and we trust that before it is too late, the Prime Minister will pause before accepting in their entirety all the retrograde and unworkable recommendations of the Esher Committee. The second part of the report, at any rate, has already been condemned in no uncertain manner by military and civilian experts who are competent to pronounce upon it. Lord Haliburton, in much the same strain that we have adopted, condemns the new scheme of selecting officers for promotion and higher commands, pointing out that the plan of placing such matters outside the Army Council—who surely could be trusted to deal with such matters—must inevitably lead to a most undesirable system of outside influence and consequent discontent. He also severely criticises the proposed permanent staff of the Defence Committee, maintaining that it is subversive of our constitutional system that a body of expert advisers should intervene between the Prime Minister and the political chiefs of the Admiralty and War Office.

Lord Wemyss had a personal triumph in the House of Lords on Monday. Lord Lansdowne spoke no

empty compliment to his energy and vigour "which others would emulate if they could". But Lord Wemyss' speech showed more than energy and vigour. It was one of the youngest speeches we have read on the fiscal question; and it is surely an inspiring sight to see a man, by many years the Nestor of politics, stand up in the House of Lords and let loose his imagination on the vision of a federation of English-speaking people which should ensure the peace of the world. The energy and humour of the speech, however great, were less remarkable than this liteness of imagination which keeps Lord Wemyss among the few really progressive intellects of his party. He feels as keenly as Mr. Chamberlain the greatness of the opportunity. He would therefore hand the case over to a royal commission. Other means seem better to other people, but if more people had the young interest of Lord Wemyss in the end in view the nation would soon find for itself the right solution.

So long as potential Attorney-Generals—in that Government of imagination of which Mr. Alpheus C. Morton is to be Prime Minister—persist in gallivanting about the Lobbies with a parcel of excited ladies (chiefly maidens with nothing else to do), the Women's Suffrage Bill will never be taken as seriously as it deserves at Westminster. Year after year there are the same ridiculous scenes and small jokes when the bill comes up. One year there is an outburst of cheers and hisses behind the grille; another Mr. Labouchere spoils the debate with a long-concocted joke about "Mrs. Speaker". Last week, when the bill came up, it was Mr. W. Redmond who played the popular part by sitting on Mr. Cremer—although that M.P. rose in vain with pomp to protest—and persisted in quoting "A ministering angel, thou"; and, though not in the least in earnest, tried to carry it through with the grim tenacity which Mr. John Dillon displays when buried in the sand of one of the Wimbledon Park bunkers.

We have often noticed that the politics of the London County Council, in the hands of the wirepullers who have controlled it from the beginning, smack strongly of American machine methods. Thus the Council will not allow the same man to be Chairman two years following for fear of his becoming too influential and so eclipsing his colleagues. Every Progressive must have his share of the spoil; and the chairmanship being the great plum, every Progressive item must feel that he will have it in his turn. Thus even Mr. Benn becomes Chairman this year: a tenth-rate journalist, though it is doubtful if his "organ" gives him a title even to so modest a dignity, and professional politician. We wonder whether Mr. Benn will pay the Council the delicate attention of eating oranges in the chair, as he recently did on the platform at a public meeting in Shore-ditch. The new Chairman's refined manners did not please the East London people, who told him to eat his oranges at home. Apparently from their description of the fruit he was enjoying what the plebs always regard as a prize, "a blood orange".

Mr. Warner's eleven has wound up a strikingly successful tour with a brilliant victory. The one complaint made good against the team is that the batting has been slow. The last match, the second against South Australia, has repelled any such aspersion. In the last innings Warner, Foster and Tyldesley, playing most of the time in rain, scored 183 in two hours and Tyldesley made his fifty in twenty-five minutes. We were a hundred runs behind on the first innings, and it looked as if, in the absence of Hayward, Lilley and Arnold, South Australia might win the one victory of the minor matches. But just as in the first New South Wales match, and on several other occasions in the tour, the eleven did its best, in the inevitable metaphor of the reporter, "from the back mark". The records of the bowlers in the team as collected in a tabular form show at a glance the variety, which was the chief strength of the team. Taking them in order of merit, Rhodes took 63, Braund 37, Arnold 40, Bosanquet 36, and Hirst 30 wickets. Cricket matches are not won, as popular criticism generally presupposes, by a few "star" cricketers.

POLITICS AND SEX.

WHEN the House is engaged in its annual discussion of women's fitness for political responsibility, it is very difficult for a spectator to keep a becomingly grave countenance. And if some of the more strenuous apostles of female suffrage, for some ladies, it must be confessed, do become appallingly serious when this matter turns up, are inclined to censure this as the flippant and impertinent remark of a man, we hasten to assure them that the laugh is in no sense against them. The difficulty is to prevent smiling at the ancient hypocrisies that year by year do duty as reasons why votes should not be given to women. They are propounded with gravity and seriously received by a House that is not giving the real issue any attention at all. We must say that any ladies who do take their unenfranchised estate as a real grievance have some right to be indignant at the Commons' treatment of them. It would be easier to bear with fierce hostility than with an approval that merely postpones their case to a more convenient season. In this the annual vote on woman's suffrage is on all fours with divisions on the deceased wife's sister, with the difference that female suffrage is always discussed with the good humour that is covertly laughing at itself, while the deceased wife's sister stirs all the angriest passions of the House of Commons soul. And yet the feminine vote is infinitely the greater issue, raising innumerable questions of interest, social, historic, psychological and physiological.

Who could help being amused at a number of men engaged in trying to find an explanation of women's exclusion from political power, yet studiously ignoring the only and obviously true one? Man is a stronger animal than woman, therefore he was able to keep her out and thus to arrange things in the state to his own advantage as against her; and being able, of course he did it. No doubt women would have done as much for themselves, had they been able, but Nature did not give them the chance. Nature made woman the smaller of the two, and the smaller has had to give way to the greater. The germ of the whole thing is plain enough in the savage, who makes his wives do all the work while he idles. He does not make his women fight, because that would be giving his enemies an advantage. Moreover if the women were killed, or seriously diminished in number, the men would have to work, which would be most revolutionary. The plain physical fact that men are stronger than women is a sufficient explanation of the profound observation which does so much service in these debates that throughout the ages politics have been in the hands of men. If the opponents of the women would take their stand simply on this superior strength of men, they would be on firm ground. Weakly enough, the fear of a semblance of brutality makes them desert an impregnable position for all sorts of shifting sands. Why should we shrink from admitting that the stronger in the long run must rule the weaker; why set up a fiction which can only disguise but not modify the reality? In truth this is not a brutal argument at all; for that on the whole man is a stronger animal by nature than woman means more than that he has stronger thews and muscles. Keep to that basis, the basis of putting power in the hands of the stronger, and it seems to us that no case at all can be made out against controlling power being in the hands of men. The qualification becomes superior capability for the particular work, and so the stronger men, that is the more capable from whatever cause, property, brains, training, would keep the power in their own hands as against the inferior men. The best men might on this basis quite logically admit an exceptional woman; the franchise resting in no way on sex but on capacity. The outcome of such a political régime of strength, or competence, would be the exclusion of the vast majority of women; but in respect of this exclusion, their sex would be an accident.

But democracy has shifted the whole political ground, and, as it seems to us, destroyed the case against women's suffrage. The only qualification for political responsibility we now ask for is an exiguous modicum

of property; that is our modern test of fitness for political power. At a breath it blows away the whole case against any woman who controls the modicum of property required. Certainly nothing else is left. Thousands of our male electors are physically contemptible, far inferior to the average woman. If we take Mr. William Redmond's qualification, which he expounded in the House on Wednesday, and give a vote to every being Heaven has endowed with intelligence, that would certainly be a very restricted franchise: but it would undoubtedly include some women and many dogs. It would exclude an infinite number of men now enfranchised. The insuperable difficulty of making a case, under a democratic system, against the inclusion of women is seen from the desperate shifts of those who would argue against it. One says women are too cruel; that was poor Mr. Cremer, whom Mr. Redmond trounced; another that they are too gentle for the rough and tumble of politics; a third that they would never exercise their judgment but vote as their husbands or brothers voted (which would seem to leave things much as they are now), a fourth that wife would vote against husband, sister against brother. Others, again, point to the numerical superiority of women; the women's vote will swamp us, they say. But before that can happen, you must abolish the property qualification. As it is, comparatively few women will be enfranchised, if admitted on the same basis as men.

We cannot be touched by any of these ancient pretexts which are too full of holes to contain any argument. Neither can we take seriously the alarming predictions of feminine degeneracy which is to follow on the first woman's receiving the franchise. Indeed, we are so satisfied that nothing important of any description would follow the enfranchisement of qualified women that we cannot pretend to care much either way. Theoretically we think the women's case is in present circumstances unanswerable; but there is so little of practical impulse behind it, its vitality is so low, that women's suffrage cannot be a matter of any great significance. If it is a grievance, it is mainly an unfelt grievance, just as, if the grievance were converted into a right, it would be mainly an unexercised right. We have never been able to understand how a man can work himself into a state of excitement over the effect enfranchisement is to have on feminine nature. One would imagine that nine-tenths of the women of England were only waiting for less than one-tenth to get the vote to discard for ever all regards for husbands, sons, and brothers, all desire to have a home, and devote themselves exclusively to the reading, hearing, and making of speeches and the recording of votes. Experience proves that it is a labour of Hercules to get the average man to vote; he has to be cozened, cajoled, dragooned and driven to the polls. Without party organisation and wire-pulling of the tightest kind, the average voter will not so much as stir out of his house; though it has always been held within men's province to take an interest in politics. Is it likely then that women, who certainly care less for politics than men, if they cannot easily know less, will suddenly develop a consuming enthusiasm for political work? Even now, higher education, women's clubs, Primrose League, Women's Liberal Federation and all, the remarkable thing about most women, women of culture too, is that they know so extremely little of the larger matters of the world. If the vote could only bring home to them that they were now regarded as on the same plane with men, and should use their brains accordingly, it would, to our mind, be quite worth while taking our chance of their getting into Parliament. We decline entirely to admit that a broader intelligence is an unwomanly development. However, we do not despair of our country-women, for it appears they are not reading the "Daily Mirror" to any great extent.

THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT AND SOCIALISM.

THE attitude of the Government in Germany towards the socialists has always, since Bismarck tried repression, been uncertain and apparently inconsistent. It seems extraordinary to many Englishmen

when they read at one time of the Government promoting measures of an exceedingly socialist character, and at another attempting to repress the socialist party; or, as it has been doing during the current army and navy debates, taunting, reproaching, and going near to insulting its leaders. The antagonism depends on methods rather than on aims; and the Government has been disappointed and angered not because it objected to socialistic measures but because the socialists cannot be persuaded to leave their devising and execution to the Government as at present constituted. Politics that is to say and not economics has been at the bottom of the whole history since Bismarck persecuted, and the Emperor William patronised, and subsequently lost patience with the party. It is in this latter phase that the socialist question stands in Germany; and in proportion as the socialists gain ground, they are at present the largest single Parliamentary group, the more does the political divergence cause irritation to the Government. In economics the Government has no objection to pose as the ally of the party; but the fact that the socialists are not thereby to be persuaded into acquiescence in the present political system accounts for its hatred of them. As a theory socialism is accepted more deliberately in Germany than it is in any other country, and the Government has responded more readily to the pressure put upon it than have the Governments of other countries. Yet Germany is the most autocratic and aristocratic of all the European Christian nations with the exception of Russia. None of the nations who claim the distinction of possessing representative institutions in the most complete form, England, France, the United States, has done so much towards carrying out many of the ideas of socialism as Germany has done. The men who are returned to their Parliaments belong to classes who are more opposed in principle to the economic control of the State than those classes in Germany whose influence in the Government is not derived from their representative but from their aristocratic character—using this word politically as the antithesis of democracy. The German socialists however have believed that it is this very aristocracy that they must fight in the interests of democracy as the preliminary necessary to the complete socialising of the state. It is a proposition not capable of being maintained that socialism would proceed *pari passu* with the democratising of the Government, but the German socialists seem to act on the assumption that it would. That is part of the original book theory of socialism as it may be called which experience has not confirmed. Socialists have found, as many have in England for example, that the political movement is an embarrassment to the socialistic. At first they were the allies of Radicalism but this subsequently proved to be not only a superfluous but a positively damaging alliance. The socialist propaganda they decided ought to be economic for the simple reason that the amount of socialism to be got out of a Government has to be measured not in proportion to its democratic or aristocratic elements but by the degree to which economic socialism has permeated public opinion. In America and in France the form of government *per se* did not advance socialism one extra step; and they saw that the question of what was to be the ultimate form assumed by the state under a régime of complete socialism might be deferred until that epoch had arrived.

Socialism in Germany has not yet reached this point: and in this respect it is less purely socialistic than the corresponding movements in England and France, where the more intellectual socialists have detached themselves from the revolutionary and Radical or Liberal parties. Their plan is now to develop socialism within the ambits of the Governments under which they happen to find themselves: and to adopt in politics an opportunist in place of an irreconcilable attitude. In Germany however it has happened that, while Liberalism and Radicalism in the narrow political sense have been declining, the socialist party has been growing. The two movements have gone on together proportionately; until now the most embarrassing party to the Government is that of the socialists who have taken over the political principles of

Liberalism and Radicalism. What we are hearing now in the Reichstag from Count von Bülow and General von Einem recalls the bitter speeches of Bismarck against the leaders of Liberalism in which he charged them with want of patriotism for very similar reasons to those now alleged against the socialists. It is very natural and implies nothing more deadly against socialism than against Liberalism. There is not the slightest additional point given to the sarcasms of the German Ministers because their antagonists are socialists instead of Liberals. One side may accuse the other of want of patriotism and nickname it the peace-at-any-price party and assert that its principles lead to the destruction of the fatherland. The other retorts with "Jingo" and the rest of it and neither means exactly what it says. In England we have accused our Radicals of loving all countries but their own; and the monstrosity of cosmopolitanism has been demonstrated and the virtues of nationalism exalted as fiercely as is now being done in Germany by Count von Bülow and General von Einem a propos of the socialists. In France it is just the same; and the Nationalists have made fierce attacks upon the "Intellectuals"—the Cosmopolites—as the betrayers of their own country. We see no mystery, though some newspapers have imagined there is, in the recent proceedings in the Reichstag. If the socialists are opposed to the Army and Navy Bills, and if they have a keen scent for abuses in the army such as have been disclosed in a series of German novels, that is not because they are socialists but because they belong to social classes similarly to those in our own country who with no tincture of socialism have always been anti-military. Jealousy of the military element in a nation as necessarily involving the idea of aristocracy and autocracy is one of the oldest stories in party politics; and has perhaps been oftener told in England than elsewhere. Herr Bebel the socialist leader was without doubt as sincere as he was eloquent in affirming this patriotism of socialists and their loyalty of service in the army and navy; and certainly there is nothing in socialism which is synonymous with the theory of quakerism. Whether the German socialists are right or wrong in opposing the military proposals of the Government, the reproach that socialism is inconsistent with patriotism is as unjust, and as meaningless at the same time, as party accusations usually are. Socialists in all countries may be accounted unpatriotic by those who think that the replacing of individual proprietorship and industry by the dominion of the State means national destruction. But that is entirely different from the general charges that have been made against the German socialists. They are by no means dangerous to the state in the sense which the early Christians were understood to be to the Roman State by Marcus Aurelius. They will fight even now if need be like the ordinary German for Germany; because they want to own the fatherland in the future, and must therefore meanwhile help to defend it; otherwise there would be no use for their socialism. The charge of anti-patriotism except as merely party common form has no significance.

THE NONCONFORMIST LAWBREAKERS.

A MORE evidently insincere demonstration than that of the debate on the administration of the Education Act has rarely been heard even amongst all the insincerities of the nonconformist controversialists. There has never been any real doubt that the whole movement was political; and that religion and education were only pretexts to cover party attacks on the Government. It has been a guerilla war which has served admirably the purposes of a free lance like Mr. Lloyd-George. He has won the position he now holds in the Liberal party with its prophecy of ministerial responsibility in the next Liberal Government. He might perhaps in view of that event stop and ask himself whether what he is doing is at all likely to help to a solution of the problem such as a statesman and not an irresponsible bravo might propose. Mr. Lloyd-George interpreted by his past is comprehensible; but what can be said of Mr. Haldane

and Sir Edward Grey who desire to be taken as serious thinkers on political difficulties of which education is one of the most grave. They profess to see no solution but the repeal of the Act as far as Wales is concerned because the nonconformists are more numerous than Churchmen, and are therefore entitled to dominate Welsh education without regard to the disabilities which the past education system imposed upon Churchmen. Mr. Haldane and Sir Edward Grey have accepted the Act for England on account of its educational excellencies. But in order that they may help Mr. Lloyd-George to band together the County Councils of Wales and raise an extremely awkward position for the Government, they are willing to throw education in Wales to the winds. They condone resistance to the law, and they acquiesce not only in the educational starvation of Welsh children in non-provided schools there but in their physical starvation. The Councils have illegally refused to pay over the funds which the recent Act gave these schools the right to receive and they are deprived of both scholastic apparatus and warming apparatus at the same time. And why; what is the excuse for it? It is that peculiar state of conscience which accepts without resistance the payment of imperial grants but which will raise a revolution—such as it is—when the payment takes the form of a local rate. There is nothing else in the Education Act which makes the question of conscience in the least different from what it was before. The argument is as purely clap-trap or ad captandum or ad hoc, or any other form of phrase one may use for insincerity; as are also Mr. Lloyd-George's views about the sacredness of family relationships in Wales. This is the brilliant reason why county councils in Wales will not administer the law. Their fathers and mothers and brothers and sisters and aunts and cousins object to obeying the law and it cannot be expected of Welsh administrators to enforce it: was anything more ridiculous ever invented? We only hope that before long these very domestic county councillors, whose charity begins at home and stays there, will be asked to state their reasons in black and white on a return to a Writ of Mandamus. That will be about as droll a return as ever a court of justice listened to: or rather did not listen to: for of course the whole thing is as grotesque from a legal point of view as it is in foro conscientiae; that august tribunal to which one might imagine from their talk nobody but nonconformists have the right of access.

In the whole of Mr. Lloyd-George's speech with its collection of hard cases which he relies on to show the injustice of the administration of the Act in Wales there is not one which is an impeachment of the Act itself and which necessarily flows from it. His contention is that in many instances schools that were provided out of the contributions of parishioners many of whom were nonconformists have become subject to voluntary administration. We need not deny the facts; they may exist: but they are the subjects of inquiry and for provision in the orders which may be made under the Act to meet the particular circumstances. They afford no ground for refusing altogether to administer the Act. Lord Hugh Cecil made a complete answer which shattered Mr. Lloyd-George's pretext into fragments. Mr. Lloyd-George would prove that nonconformists had subscribed to schools without knowing that they were to be Church schools. Then said Lord Hugh Cecil they must have known unless the parson had made a false declaration. Could Mr. Lloyd-George prove that? Certainly he replied. If that is so, came the answer as logically decisive as it was witty—that is nothing against the Education Act, however strong a case for action under the Church Discipline Act. These quibbles belong to the class of arguments which are considered good enough by a man who intends to fight whether with or without reason and only argues with his tongue in his cheek. The intention of Mr. Lloyd-George and the County Councils who have adopted his plan of campaign is to fight and they have instituted the state of war on education. Lord Hugh Cecil on this point conceded too much to these professed champions of conscience. It will be quoted against him on their platforms that he said there were grievances which justified disobedience to the law when a good case was

established. They will certainly not be silenced by his opinion that they have not as far as the Education Act goes such a justifying case. That, they will say, is a matter for their own judgment: and his admission in this connexion will be sufficient for them. In a sense what Lord Hugh Cecil said is a truism; but it was superfluous and dangerous in the circumstances in which it was uttered. But apart from this we are in thorough agreement with him. He recognises clearly that the state of war exists and that it is the duty of the Government as long as the Act exists to require its observance. "Resistance to the Education Act was in the nature of an act of war, and as long as war continued there was no use in waging it in a half-hearted way."

That is the clear line to take; and the Government have not only the general law which enables them to enforce obedience on recalcitrant public bodies, but the Act itself gives them specific powers for compelling the Education Authorities to fulfil their duties. The Government however will have to act in a different spirit from that which has allowed the London County Council to form an Education Committee at variance with all the principles upon which it was anticipated that the Act would be worked. In accepting the scheme the Education Department has acted against its own opinions and allowed its views to be ignored. Persons outside the Council who are most entitled to be heard on questions of education have been excluded from the Committee; and a most unfortunate precedent has been set for the ignoring by other local authorities of the control of the department. But whatever may be the weakness of the Government in dealing with education questions, it is clear that there must be none on the part of all upholders of religious education in the struggle that will arise in the event of a Radical Government coming into power. The programme has been very distinctly stated by Lord Rosebery; all schools are to be placed under popular management. The only issue of this, as we have often said, must be either the secularising of the schools or the recognition of the rights of denominational teaching by denominational teachers as part of the ordinary school curriculum; not merely outside the schools or in non-school hours. The true objective is the repeal of the Cowper-Temple clause. Any compromise short of that will settle nothing. Should that be refused the case of conscience would indeed arise. The only people whose conscience would be considered would be those who can accept completely secular education, or the modified form of it known as undenominationalism; and, as Dr. Lunn puts it in his letter in the "Times" of Thursday, a new Act of Uniformity would be established which would only permit such religious teaching as nonconformists approve to be given in the public schools during school hours. If the doctrine that all specific religious instruction is an offence against the rights of conscience is triumphant, it will be impossible even to make any compromise with nonconformists. The schools could not be used under any conditions for religious teaching as that would involve recognition by the State and certain expenses. They will push the matter to that extreme, we have no doubt, and the result will be that all but themselves will stand outside the circle of national education.

A JUDICIAL SELECTION:

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE OF IRELAND.

MR. BALFOUR is remembered in Ireland for many reasons. One of them is that he discovered "Peter the Packer", otherwise Sir Peter O'Brien, now Lord O'Brien of Kilfenora, and made him Lord Chief Justice of Ireland. Now that the storms are passed, it is seen that Mr. Balfour's selection for the Chief Justiceship was not the happiest of his efforts. But in those days Mr. Balfour thought it best for Ireland to give his support and patronage to those who had served as instruments of his government; and it was probably due to this that when occasion served he placed the Attorney-General at the head of the King's Bench.

Mr. O'Brien was not a scholar like his predecessor May, nor a shrewd politician with an unfailing common sense like Morris. He was neither a lawyer nor a scholar, nor yet a politician tried in the parliamentary arena. The fact only emphasised the lesson. The cause of law and order in days of revolution may have need of lawyers who are no lawyers. Qualities that are at other times of little value may then reach a premium. The pedant who has too thin a skin to be indifferent to the attacks of a vitriolic press; the scholar who is too gentle to be rude or overbearing; the Constitutionalist who would shrink from straining the Constitution in order to defend it are then of little use to the Executive. Mr. Balfour's Attorney-General was not a pedant, or a scholar, or a constitutional idolater. A nisi prius lawyer, well practised in the arts by which the Irish juror must on occasion be wheedled or browbeaten; a member of the Munster Bar, where skill in driving a refractory jury is essential to success, with affinities to his predecessor's province of Connaught where the art of cajolery is brought to perfection, Mr. Peter O'Brien was an instrument made to the hand of the author of what the Land League still nicknames "The Jubilee Coercion Act". He stood the fire of the League battalions gallantly. He struck back with vigour. His crowning victory was at Maryborough where the parish priest of Gweedore, defended by Mr. Healy, was forced to plead guilty to the charge of riot, for which he was indicted with the band of his parishioners at whose hands Inspector Martin lost his life. Such a sustained battle merited its reward. But whether the Chief Justiceship was the fitting reward still forms a topic of controversy even in the Unionist camp.

The war on the League called for the exercise of none of the qualities that are ordinarily rewarded by judicial eminence; and since his accession to the Bench the Lord Chief Justice of Ireland has exhibited none. The Green Street lawyer may naturally be expected to display the defects of the qualities that achieve notoriety there. Lord O'Brien is not a great judge in any of the legal acceptations of that term. But he has one valuable quality. Despite affectations that sometimes provoke ridicule, a manner verging on pomposity, a Britannia metal oratory that reminds one too pertinently of the plethoric periods of the Irish schoolmaster of Lover's creation, a habit of labial convolution that tempts the black and white artist to caricature, the Irish Chief Justice knows his defects as an authority on law. Amid all his pretensions he never pretends to an independent judgment. He is a most docile hearer to his learned brothers' opinions as he sits, when it is unavoidable, in the Court of Appeal. He has the utmost respect for the decisions of his colleagues; and when he ventures to dissent he chooses his company with an unerring instinct for respectability. His sympathies, however, often miss the merits of a case when thrown on his own resources. Nevertheless, in one respect he is an improvement on the mere Crown Prosecutor glorified. As a Judge of Assize he is most careful of the ordinary prisoner's rights, provided the prisoner is not a politician. His regard for law and order is so great that his zeal against the disturber may outrun his discretion. The Irish jury in a political case needs tender handling. Any judicial lapse arouses its suspicions. In the Tallow Case the Lord Chief Justice wofully failed in the effort to persuade two juries to bring in a verdict; while the Chief Baron's straight driving succeeded at the first venture. His critics say that some trace of truculence survives in the judicial method from the days when he hesitated between the League and the law. In those days he successfully played the part of an imitation Curran to Mr. T. D. Sullivan's Peter Finnerty; and Mr. T. M. Healy was once under obligations to Mr. O'Brien's ore rotundo style of defence. He was then the rising hope of stern and unbending Leaguers; and the early association has left its traces. Even the convicted Leaguer, however, experiences no vindictiveness. The Chief Justice is satisfied if the agitator is made to feel that there is a law.

Like most men who are thrust into prominence by the circumstances of their time rather than by native superiority, the Irish Chief Justice has his foibles. He

is neither scholar nor orator; but would like to make a reputation for eloquence. His models, however, are neither ancient nor modern, and are unsuited to the atmosphere of to-day. He is tired of unpopularity. The east wind has blown too long upon him, and he would relish a little refreshing moisture from the west. His flirtations with his countrymen are amusing. He would approach them on their weak side; and set up as a patron of sport. He has been known to follow the Kildare hounds at what a sporting curate mindful of the Maynooth statutes described as "a moral distance". Unlike Lord Alverstone he has no record as an athlete to boast of; but he flourishes in the cricket pavilion and by the river. The greatest of his recent triumphs was the initiation of the International Boat Race on the River Lee over which the Emperor William and his lordship exchanged telegrams as warm as those on a more memorable occasion. There is an irreverent story that he began his work for the trophy by the declaration that he could find an Irish "eleven" to beat the world. That is, probably, malignant; but it illustrates his reputation. He is not popular with the Bar; and the Bar owes him a grudge. For did he not barter the Irish lawyers' title to be represented among the Lords of Appeal in exchange for a peerage? The exchange satisfied both his ambition and his modesty; for a Lordship of Appeal is exigent.

One wonders will the career be crowned by the Irish Lord Chancellorship. That Lord O'Brien is willing to be accoucheur to the Irish millennium is alleged by the uncharitable. But he has never looked back since the days when his innocence as a politician was tempted on the Clare hustings.

THE DAUGHTER OF THE STUDENTS.

THE month of July, and the year 1893. One of those dear, amazing years when, in Paris, everybody has a foe, a feud, and a fear; everybody a flush on his face and a gleam in his eye, everybody a little adventure with the plain police, the mounted police, or the Garde Républicaine. We are on the march, on the run. The cry of the hour is: Panama. The Ministry of the moment is—well, who is Prime Minister this morning? Never mind his name: he is sure to be a swindler, a "bandit". Nothing but "bandits" among the public men. No purity among the public men: they have all, all "touched" money in the Panama affair. No, M. Duval is not an exception. He is as villainous as the rest. If you persist in your declaration that he is an exception, you must have some sinister interested reason. You, Monsieur, are no better than M. Duval. You, too, are a bandit; I say it again, Bandit, bandit, bandit. Come out and fight. Come out and—Bombs and bombs. In restaurants, three explosions. In the Chamber of Deputies, a fearful report, volumes of smoke. And in the midst of the panic the Premier's heroic cry, the most famous cry of 1893—"The séance continues"—and a few hours later another famous cry, from Laurent Taillade, the Socialist: "Qu'important les victimes si le geste est beau!" But a vengeance on Laurent Taillade; an explosion in the Restaurant Foyot, in which Taillade himself is hurled injured to the ground. Such a tumult, such a panic in Paris! Houses searched by the police, and hundreds of suspected persons arrested. And in the midst of the panic, the good Bohemians of the Latin Quarter also rise and march with sticks and lanterns to the house of Senator Bérenger, and smash his windows, and groan, and call upon him to come out and be slain on the spot. Unhappy Senator Bérenger, who deemed that the Quat-z-Arts ball—the great annual ball of the students—was improper. "It was art", shout the students. "It was a shocking spectacle", cries the Senator. "Come out and be slain", shout the students. "Arrest them", orders the Senator. And then—O then—a revolution in the Quarter; then the great Students' Riots of 1893: then, the wild, terrifying Seven Days' Bagarre. There blaze bonfires; there arise barricades; there lie omnibuses overturned on the Boul' Mich'; there march furious bands of students who charge and are

charged by the police. Mercy, how we march and how we run! On the Fifth Day we are bandaged and we limp, but we resume our manifestations. "Come out and be slain", we yell, below the Senator's window. "Arrest them", orders the Senator. "It was art", we almost sob in the ear of the interviewer. "It was a shocking spectacle", declares the Senator. "You must, you shall be slain", we cry in frenzy. And then, in the Quarter, appears the Army; and the Army goes for us; and before such overwhelming odds, we fly; and twenty of us who fly and fly, find ourselves at last, dishevelled and breathless, in a dim, deserted side-street.

Not a sound; we are too much exhausted to speak. A moon, and stars, silence, and peace. Twenty dishevelled and exhausted students who sit on the kerbstone, on doorsteps, to rest. And then—all of a sudden—a cry. A feeble, plaintive cry from a doorstep; and on the doorstep, a bundle. Twenty exhausted, dishevelled students before the bundle: a bundle that cries. An amazing discovery, a sensational surprise! The bundle is a child; the bundle is a gosse; the bundle is a bud of a girl.

Twenty exhausted, dishevelled students strangely in possession of a baby; and who nurse the baby, and who seek to win her confidence with awkward caresses, and by swinging her to and fro, and by assuring her that she is safe and sound, and, finally, twenty good Bohemians who resolve to adopt the child, and introduce her formally to their colleagues, and proclaim her before all the good Bohemians of the Rive Gauche: "The Adopted Daughter of the Students of the Latin Quarter." But, the name, the name? The Saint for the day is Lucie: so Lucie. The gosse was found on the last night of the Bagarre: so Bagarre. Thus, with the polite prefix, we get:

Mademoiselle Lucie Bagarre.

Does Paul buy books on the nursing of infants, or the bringing up of children? And Gaston; does he go blushing into a shop and stammer out a request for a baby's complete outfit? At all events, awkwardness and unrest in the Quarter. It is such a responsibility to have a daughter, it is such an anxiety to attend adequately to her needs! And so, after infinite discussion, it is determined that Mlle. Lucie Bagarre shall reside in the home of Enfants Trouvés until the best-hearted of foster-mothers in the whole of France shall have been found. Says Paul gravely, "Country air is indispensable." Says Gaston, "Milk and eggs". Says Pierre, "Companions of her own age". Do the good Bohemians of the Latin Quarter go forth gravely in quest of foster-mothers? Do they pass from province to province—comparing foster-mothers, testing the milk and eggs, studying local death-rates, wondering and wondering which is the healthiest and most invigorating of the various airs? At all events, Mlle. Lucie Bagarre is ultimately taken to a farm. Says Paul, "Nothing better than a farm". Says Gaston, "Fresh milk and eggs every morn". Says Pierre, "Cows and ducks and hens to marvel at". Says Aimery, "None of the pernicious influences and surroundings of the city". Concludes Xavier: "We have done admirably." Thus, the Committee; a Committee of Five, whose duty it is to deal with the foster-mother, whose privilege it is to "look after the affairs" of Mlle. Lucie Bagarre. Always "sitting", this Committee; sitting before ledgers and ink in the Taverne Lorraine, gifts and subscriptions to be acknowledged; instructions to be sent to the foster-mother; inquiries after the health of Mlle. Lucie Bagarre to be answered; interviewers to be received; in fine, much business in the Taverne Lorraine. And then, all the students of the Latin Quarter have a right to demand news of Mlle. Lucie Bagarre; for all the students are her fathers, and so, naturally enough, they are anxious to know whether she has spoken her first word and cut her first tooth and staggered her first step. It is well that the Committee is patient and amiable; it is fortunate that the Committee rejoices in its work; else there would be cries of "Laissez-moi tranquille", and "Fichez-moi la paix", and "Décampe, ou je t'assomme". Now and then, the Committee visits Mlle. Lucie Bagarre at her farm, and on their return a general meeting is

held in the Taverne Lorraine, with Paul in the chair. Paul on the health, appearance, and pastimes of Mlle. Lucie Bagarre. Paul on the foster-mother, on the farm; Paul, also, on Mlle. Lucie Bagarre's diet; Paul, finally, on Mlle. Lucie Bagarre's approaching birthday. And, indeed, on each of her birthdays, the students' adopted daughter receives gifts and an address; and on Christmas Day and New Year's Day, more gifts; and upon every visit of the Committee, a souvenir of some kind or another. Explains Paul most wisely, "Children like that".

Ah me, the responsibility, the anxiety of having a daughter! The moment comes when she has measles and chicken-pox: and then what dark days for the father. And Mlle. Lucie Bagarre is no exception: Mlle. Lucie Bagarre has chicken-pox, has measles. In the Latin Quarter, alarm and emotion. All Mlle. Lucie Bagarre's many fathers énérvés and agitated. All the fathers suggesting precautions and remedies. All the fathers trying to remember what their parents did when they had chicken-pox and measles. Does the Committee study books on those diseases? At all events, the Committee is in constant communication with the farm. Also, the Committee proceeds solemnly to the farm. The telegram to Paris: "No complications. Malady following its ordinary course." Another telegram: "Think it wiser to remain the night." A third telegram: "Good night. Took nourishment this morning." And in the "Etudiant" and the "Cri du Quartier"—the brilliant organs of the Quarter—the announcement in large type: "We rejoice to announce that the adopted daughter of the students of the Latin Quarter is now allowed to take air in her garden. To all her fathers, she returns her warmest thanks for their sympathy, messages, and offerings. But the quite unusual number of her fathers renders it impossible to thank each one of them individually." Follows Mlle. Lucie Bagarre's signature: the scrawling letters, L.B., faithfully reproduced. Says Paul, "I gave her a pencil-box. Children adore that".

However, four years have elapsed since Mlle. Lucie Bagarre pained her many dear fathers by having chicken-pox. To day, she has turned eleven; but she still resides far away from "the pernicious influences and surroundings of the city". Says Paul, "Country air is still indispensable." Says Gaston, "Always milk and eggs". Says Pierre, "Honest folk about her". Down to the farm goes the Committee, and back comes the Committee with the report that Mlle. Lucie Bagarre can now dive her hand into the pockets of the Committee's dear corduroy waistcoat. She has grown; she is almost a jeune fille. How, by the way, stands her banking account? Well; but since the occasion for increasing it now presents itself, let the occasion be used to the utmost. The fête of Mi-Carême: the proceeds of the fête to be set aside for "la fille adoptive des étudiants, la petite Lucie Bagarre". A grand bal masqué at Bullier's. Says Paul, "In order to attract the public, we must be amazing". All the fathers scheming how to be amazing. All the fathers painting themselves and donning fantastic costumes. All the fathers calling upon Paris to swell their fund by visiting Bullier's. And Paris responds: Paris flocks to Bullier's.

An amazing spectacle and an amazing night: the good Bohemians have succeeded in being entirely amazing. Bullier's packed; Bullier's all light, all colour, all movement, when the Committee of Five proudly surveys the scene. Says Paul, "Gold". Says Gaston, "Bank-notes". Says Pierre, "A dot". Says Aimery, "A fortune". Says Xavier, "A veritable heiress". Say the innumerable fathers, "The richissime Mademoiselle Lucie Bagarre". And then, toasts. And then, cheers. And then, the resolution that an address, signed by all her fathers, shall be presented to their dear adopted daughter, who, at this advanced noisy hour, is lying fast asleep in her farm.

JOHN F. MACDONALD.

THE UNIVERSITY CREWS.

THE form displayed by the Trial Eights of the two Universities last December made it clear that the rowing both on the Cam and on the Isis was below rather than above the average. It appeared probable that Cambridge would be able to send at the best a fair crew to Putney in the spring; and it seemed almost impossible for Oxford with the available material to make up an eight which would in any way approach the standard of an average University crew. Both crews have met with misfortunes in training. The Oxford president, Mr. Monier-Williams, was prevented from rowing by an injury to his knee, and a few days later Mr. Edwards Moss, the Cambridge president, had to retire from the boat owing to an attack of neuritis. The respective merits of these two oarsmen leave no doubt that Cambridge sustained the greater loss.

The real difficulty which the Oxford crew have had to contend with has been the flooded state of the river. Coaching was practically impossible during that most important period of the training when the final order of the crew should have been decided. It is of course always an advantage to have a crew settled at the earliest possible moment in the places which they will eventually occupy, but, in a year in which the faults of the men are very much more conspicuous than their merits, those whose strength rather than form is their recommendation must be given a prolonged chance of improving before they are discarded. There is a great element of luck in settling the order of a University crew some seven weeks before the race. It may be that all the men improve together when it becomes more and more obvious that the order which seemed best at the outset is the correct one. In other cases one or two of the men do not improve with the others, and the nearer the approach that is made to a racing stroke the less are they able to do themselves justice. In such cases it becomes necessary for the coach to recommend an eleventh-hour change in the order, or even a change in the constitution of the crew. Oxford have encountered several difficulties of this kind, and it has been quite amusing to read the strictures of some ignorant critics upon the changes which have doubtless been recommended by their coach. Mr. Fletcher is the best coach and one of the best judges of rowing in the country and it is ridiculous to suppose that he would advise changes unless they were necessary for the good of the crew, or that he would allow the crew to remain in the new order unless it was at once obvious that the change was a change for the better.

Three weeks ago there was an apparently hopeless lack of style and uniformity in the rowing of the Oxford men; neither the bodies nor the blades were together, the beginning of the stroke was rowed in the air, and in many cases the blades were uncovered before the finish. There was also a complete absence of that combination of leg and body work which is essential if a crew are to get any real pace on their boat. They have, however, with the assistance of their coach, set to work with determination to achieve that which appeared well nigh impossible. Seldom has a crew made such steady and consistent improvement as they have made during the last three weeks, and especially during the first few days they were at Putney. They have neither the physique nor the experience to enable them ever to become a first-class crew, but there can be no doubt that they have made the very best of the available material. Stroke, seven and six swing fairly well together; five is a strong but inexperienced oar who swings out of the boat at the finish; four often fails to use his weight from the stretcher; the three bow men are fair workers. The whole crew are inclined to be slow in getting hold of the beginning, the leg work is insufficient, and they are not yet perfectly together.

Cambridge are not a taking crew to look at. They have an ugly way of raising their shoulders at the finish of the stroke, they hurry their bodies forward and fail to grip the beginning of the stroke. Their merits as compared with their rivals lie in the fact that they are much better together, and make infinitely

better use of their legs in the middle of the stroke. They sit their boat well, their blades are well covered, and there is a smoothness about their blade-work which allows the boat to run well between the strokes. Stroke and seven are the two worst men in the boat, but they have a very good man in Mr. Thomas at six. He is a good worker and his steady swing forward in a great measure counteracts the effect of the hurried recovery of stroke and seven. Mr. Powell at five would do better if he took number six as his model instead of copying some of the contortions of number seven. Mr. Lawrence, who is rowing four, is good and promises to develop into a first-class oar. Bow, two, and three are fair performers. Man for man they are harder workers than those who occupy the same position in the Oxford crew.

The boats of the two crews are built upon identical lines by Messrs. Sims of Putney, but that of Cambridge, owing to the fact that their crew is the lighter of the two, sits higher in the water. It has consequently been found necessary for them to have the work set lower in relation to the height of the seats than in the Oxford ship. The low work seems to suit their style of rowing, but it almost looks as if they had got it too low, as they have very little room to get their hands away clear of their knees. This does not inconvenience them in calm weather, but it remains to be seen how they will fare if they get a really rough day.

The first two trials over the Putney to Mortlake course do not afford a very sound basis for a comparison of the pace of the two crews. That of Oxford was rowed on a day when the tide was at its slackest, and they were too late in starting to get the benefit of what tide there was. It was at the most a steady practice row. They never attempted a racing stroke and the fact that they occupied over 22 minutes between the start and the winning post does not necessarily stamp them as a very slow crew. The Cambridge trial of Wednesday last was not a good performance. There was a very respectable tide and they had a light leading wind nearly all the way. They had two scratch crews to make the pace for them at different points of the course, and both of these untrained combinations lived with them for over six minutes. Their time—20 min. 40 sec.—was distinctly slow in the circumstances.

So marked is the difference between the style of the two crews that at the present time it is not easy to form an accurate opinion as to their respective chances of success. If the race were rowed to-day Cambridge would probably win, but Oxford have been improving so rapidly that their chance of catching the judge's eye on Saturday next is by no means remote. It is often between two rather inferior crews such as those of this year that we see the most interesting race.

GOUNOD AND HIS ORATORIOS.

GOUNOD has been dead now over ten years, and in Paris they still play his "Faust", and in England they still sing his "Redemption". The choice made by the two nations is significant of a very great deal which I do not propose to discuss to-day. But at least it may be remarked that while the English accept "Faust", the French will have no truck with the "Redemption". The French are right. "Faust" is a very beautiful small opera; it is the fullest, the final, expression of Gounod's nature; while the "Redemption" only hints at his nature. The opera communicates its author's emotions to the audience; the oratorio simply indicates his emotional state. The opera gives you an electric shock; the oratorio is as a magnetic needle whose wobbings show that there is electricity in the vicinity, but electricity which cannot get at you. Some years ago I thought the "Redemption" was dead, and only galvanised into a semblance of life by the industry of publishers and other interested persons. But no: it goes cheerfully on; and the British public still goes to hear it. And here we have a Life of Gounod, by Mr. Henry Tolhurst; and in it I find the "Redemption" and "Mors et Vita" spoken of as great, grand, and all the rest of it. I happen to know them both by heart,

and propose to-day to devote a little time to making an examination of them.

The keynote to Gounod's character was, I take it, a very high degree of sensuousness—he was extraordinarily sensitive to every pleasurable sensation: to pleasures of sound, colour, form—every sort of pleasure. Hence in "Faust" he rendered with marvellous fidelity and delicacy the sensations of the animal side of human love. Those sensations he embodied chiefly in the music of Marguerite; and the only difference between the character of Marguerite and his own character is one of sex. But of course he had other qualities. Though he had no genius, as Mendelssohn had, for painting musical pictures—a "Hebrides" overture, for instance, could not possibly have come from him—he could give us the atmosphere of a landscape, as he did in the opening of "Gallia". An eternity of heavenly bliss affected his sensuous nature in much the same way as the contemplation of Faust and Marguerite together in the garden. The beauty of the Roman Catholic service made a vehement appeal to him. If his flesh responded passionately to the fleshly appeal of woman, his spiritual part responded quite as passionately to the æsthetic side of the church service, with its music, genuflections of priests, vestments and incense.

So, having revealed many sides of himself in music of a loveliness and tenderness that show all the sweetness of his nature, at last, when he was no longer young, he turned his attention seriously to expressing feelings excited in him by religion and religious services. I emphasise the last phrase, religious services, for it was the sensations aroused by them as much as the sensations stirred into being by religion itself that he set himself to express. Earlier in life he had written church music, but nothing planned on the grand scale of the "Redemption" and "Mors et Vita". At once he came to grief—for very good reasons. Not the least part of the effect produced by ecclesiastical ceremonies is that produced by the music. Gounod, then, was to attempt to re-translate into tone the impressions made upon him by tone. But the music of the church had long ago been written once and for all time by austere men, sincere to a degree impossible for a Gounod living in the nineteenth century, men, moreover, who drew their inspiration from religion itself and not in the least from music written by others. They wrote genuine devotional music, while Gounod's aim was to render delicious æsthetic sensations. In religious music there is no place for anything of the sort. Lusciousness is the last thing wanted in religious music: it destroys the very effect it is intended to produce. The old music is beautiful, but it makes its enormous effect in virtue of its austerity, because it reflects and expresses the spirit of the words. The moment sensuousness is introduced you get a collision between the sentiment of the words and that of the music; you get also reminiscences of operatic scenes and love-songs which are fatal to devotional feeling. I am aware that this is equivalent to saying Gounod was not a religious man, and in the true sense of the words it is true—Gounod most decidedly was not a religious man. He got delightful sensations from religion, and he doubtless believed it fervently enough; but he had no vocation for the spiritual life. Even Perosi, poor creature though he is, gets much nearer to the heart of the matter than a man like Gounod possibly could. Perosi at any rate goes direct to the meaning of the words, and if he cannot render them, he keeps out extrinsic modern feeling. It is a long time since any devotional music was written. Handel wrote pagan music, picturesque and full of human feeling; Bach, writing like the older men, austere, got his Pietism into his big mass and the Passions; Mozart made his Requiem religious by its austerity and terrible sincerity—I mean that he also went directly to the words and never dreamed of repeating at second-hand church effects. Yet even the Requiem and Bach's Passions remain as works rather for the concert-room than the church. Haydn's merry prattle is, of course, not church music at all.

It is useless to protest against this judgment on Gounod. We all know the manner of man he was, the life he preferred, the life he was leading during

the very period in which he was writing the "Redemption" and "Mors et Vita"; and finally we have the works themselves. A more comically ambitious scheme than that of the Redemption I cannot imagine. It begins with a picture of chaos, which Haydn had already done as well as such a thing can be done; then we have a sketch of the Garden of Eden, as it might have been; and afterwards the Son of God announces His intention, in four choral parts and with an organ accompaniment, to redeem the world of sinners. Now Tennyson once remarked that a great many people pictured God as a huge clergyman in a white choker; but Gounod's conception of God's Son and Paradise is even more startling. After the Sunday-school hymn in which Christ declares his determination we get the much-talked-of Redeemer motive, and it turns out to be a fragment out of the finale of Beethoven's Eroica symphony, spoiled in the lifting. It appears nine times in the course of the work—as if that mattered—and it is not expressive of Divine love or of anything else in particular. We must remember that the composer of the "Redemption" was not the same man as the composer of "Faust": the old fire and invention had departed, and it was seldom that he arrived at even a sensuous melody. Only for one kind of feeling, as I have pointed out, did he ever find exact, truthful expression; and in his oratorios he was looser than ever. The "March to Calvary" may be passed over as circus-music; and as for the interminable recitative of the Narrators it is only a failure to transfer the atmosphere of the church to the concert-room. The chorus "Unfold, ye portals everlasting" is pompous nonsense—in fact it is blatantly vulgar. One or two of the choral numbers are pretty; and the introduction to the last part, with the chorus "Lovely appear", is full of sunny springtide freshness. After that there is nothing but fustian. Mr. Tolhurst in his book says it has been objected that the work is dramatic, and he says that the story is itself dramatic. Well, part of it is, but the real objection is that it is theatrical, and cheaply theatrical. The few fine things it contains will not save it from dying the death.

"Mors et Vita" need not be discussed in any detail. The art of it is wholly a bastard art. Cathedral stained-glass windows are out of place in a concert hall, a priest in his vestments is out of place there, and a faked version of church music is out of place there. In "Mors et Vita" when we are not listening to imitation of church effects we are getting sheer opera. "Felix culpa" might have come out of "Faust"; and the eight-part chorus (I forget the words) is an imitation or parody of an old-tune motet. There are a few beautiful things, but they are lost in the mass of cheap stuff which simply bores one to extinction.

In England, Mr. Tolhurst remarks, people go to an oratorio as they might go to church. Perhaps they do; and the music of the English church is the lowest kind of music now existing in England. That they go to hear the "Redemption" does not prove the music to be the kind it is supposed to be—devotional music. It is not—it is neither one thing nor another. Fine Roman church music one can listen to for hours; and a man who does not love "Faust" has something wrong in him and ought to consult a doctor. But the oratorios?—no, assuredly no!

JOHN F. RUNCIMAN.

BETTER PLAYS AND BETTER ACTING.

ONE of Mr. Meredith's earlier novels—"Beauchamp's Career", I think—opens with a delightful treatise on the uses of panic in British politics. Panic, we are told, has to be periodically fermented by our statesmen, because the public will sanction no expenditure, however needful, till it be frightened right out of its wits. Mr. Meredith likens the public to a snoring dame, not easily woken, but, once woken, "all fluttering nightcap and fingers a-grabble for the bell-rope", and ready for any means of salvation, however venturesome and dreadful. Written soon after the Crimean period, the passage is not less sharply true of our public in relation to the war that ended the other day. And it is, to a certain extent, true of our public in relation to artistic

matters. Take the art of the theatre. From year's end to year's end, our public is placidly content with its drama, and will not believe that anything could possibly be better than its drama, and is averse from any hint of innovation. But periodically arise certain dramatists and critics who, with one voice, loudly, all over the place, declare that the drama is doomed and deserves to be doomed; insomuch that the public nightcap flutters and the public fingers grabble. There is quite such a flutter and a grabble at this moment. The average newspaper is the voice of—not, as it should be, to—the public; and the average newspaper has suddenly begun to insist on the urgent need for a repertory theatre—anything to raise the tone of the drama. Yes, the public has been thoroughly scared. Only, there is in England this difference between political scares and artistic scares: the latter kind must not be relied on as unbuttoner of pockets. There was just such another artistic scare as now in the early nineties. Then, as now, the arch-alarmist was Mr. Henry Arthur Jones; and then, as now, all England collapsed into agreement that there must be a repertory theatre, and that there was not a moment to be lost. Only, every man remembered to make in his panic-stricken breast the reservation that somebody else must pay. Nobody did pay. The panic subsided gradually. But it had done a certain amount of good. "The Second Mrs. Tanqueray" was born of it, and for a time there was a general interest in serious drama.

Will the present panic be more definitely fruitful? Will some pocket or pockets unknown be definitely unbuttoned, and a repertory theatre be definitely founded? Mr. Walkley, who has a temperamental aversion from panics, and prefers despair, would have us believe that there is no use for a repertory theatre—that there are no unacted plays worth acting, or, at any rate, not so many as would make a decent repertoire. I do not think he is right. Such plays are always forthcoming, at a pinch. But for the Playgoers' Club, we should never have known of the existence of "The Finding of Nancy". But for the Stage Society, "The Man of Honour" would never have been seen. That society, by the way, did not invite me this week to the Court Theatre, and so I did not see "Op o' me Thumb", the new one-act play by Messrs. Frederick Fenn and Richard Pryce. However, I had happened to see the MS., and so have another instance to my hand. Here is a little tragi-comedy, true and touching, sure in its appeal to tears and laughter, with no taint of amateurishness in technique, and with one magnificent "acting-part" in it. Needless to say, the special mime for whom this part was the chance of a lifetime could not or would not enact it. So "Op o' me Thumb" was relegated to the Stage Society. It had—for no apparent reason but that it was not the usual tawdry twaddle—no chance of being produced in the commercial way. Another instance occurs to me. It is but a few days since I read a private copy of a very original and delightful play, written a year or so ago, by a well-known and successful dramatist. After I had read it, I asked the author when and where it was going to be produced. He replied that it had been "going the rounds" ever since he had finished it, and that no manager had even "nibbled". Here, you see, is no case of an unread MS. The author's name, and his good commercial record, must have insured prompt attention from every manager. No case, again, of an original idea marred by amateurish handling. The play is as sound a piece of stage-craft as would be expected of so experienced a craftsman. Originality alone damned the MS. Some day perhaps it will be performed by the Stage Society—or by the phantasmal repertory theatre. Now, when there is constantly coming into one's ken some play that ought to be acted, and that cannot at present be acted except fugitively and more or less in private, one may assume safely that there are, at least, as many other such plays beyond one's ken. There is, at least, enough to make a good "send-off" for a repertory theatre, even without reckoning the play which Mr. Jones has generously promised to give to it. And, once a repertory theatre were soundly started, its permanence would be assured. We must take into consideration not merely what material there is for it, but also the

material that there would be. Many men of literary talent, and of possible dramatic talent, refrain from dramaturgy, because there seems to be no middle way between making a huge fortune by conventional twaddle and earning not a halfpenny by honest and original work. Few of them can afford to write for nothing; and so they write books, for therein honest and original work does at least win them a fair wage. But if there were a theatre from which they could earn as much by dramaturgy (or even half as much, for the theatre has an intrinsic fascination for most men), then they would surely take heart of grace, and occasionally write a play. But . . . will such a theatre be founded? Will the plutocrat come forward? It is on him we pin our fluttering faith. There is no hope that the general public will subscribe anything in advance—no hope of a State theatre, or of a municipal theatre; though a privately endowed theatre, devoted to good plays, would attract enough of the general public to prevent its losses from being excessive. But it is always the most obvious things that are not done. And this panic will probably subside, like that other one, leaving no tangible or lasting good behind it. However, it is fun while it lasts. I do not grumble. Happy the expert whose subject excites, if only for a moment, his fellow-men.

The panic is not merely about our plays: it ranges to the condition of our mimes also. For them also, it is urged, something must be done. They are decried as duffers. Their equipment is angrily compared with the equipment of the French mimes who annually invade our shores, and up goes the translated cry "We are betrayed!" I counsel a little calmness, a little justice. The superiority of French acting to English acting is not a remediable phenomenon, not a thing to be made a fuss about: merely a thing to be regretted. The Latin races are races of born actors, as I have often insisted. To make a right effect in the theatre, they have merely to curb their exuberance and ebullience. This they can do by submission to artistic discipline. We, on the contrary, have to generate exuberance and ebullience in ourselves. This positive process is much harder, of course, than that negative process. It is easier to walk slowly down hill than to walk quickly up hill. It is easier to break in a mettlesome charger than to make a fat cob caracole. It is easier for a Latin than for a Saxon to be a great mime; for the former needs only an artificial change from without, while the latter needs a natural change from within. Thus the general level of French acting is bound to be always far superior to our own. And no academy of dramatic art will redress the balance. The functions of an academy in any art are negative functions: "you must not do this", and "you must not do that". An academy cannot inspire; it can only correct. And for us, therefore, whose faults are not positive but negative, an academy of dramatic art (in the true sense of the title) is not needed at all. We need no trammelling by tradition. Where we fail is in the power to liberate and express our souls through our bodies. This remark is, of course, general in intent. I do not echo the unmitigated charge of dufferdom against our mimes. Some of them, some of the principals, seem to me admirable indeed—far too good for the kind of parts they usually fill. But it is true, beyond question, that in the rank and file dufferdom reigns supreme. Amateurish, nearly all of them. How few of them can walk or talk naturally in a modern play, or scan decently in a Shakespearean play a single line of blank verse! And yet these are not tricks that can be performed by genius alone. A child could perform them, if the child were taught. Not even a grown-up person, however, could perform them without tuition. And there we have one of the most startling facts about our stage: hitherto, the grown-up persons who have gone upon it have had no tuition at all. At length, there is to be an academy of dramatic art. Haters of academicism need not be alarmed. I take it that this school will not be, like the Conservatoire, an academy in the full sense of the word. It will demand no awful surrender of souls. It will be an academy rather, in the Misses Pinkerton's sense of the word. Voice production, delivery of verse, gesture, deportment, bowing, use of the fan, dancing, fencing—I gather from the prospectus that these, and similar

things, are the objectives. It is quite absurd that anyone unversed in these accomplishments should go upon the stage, there to pick them up at haphazard. After all, you pay your money to see a play acted, not to see ladies and gentlemen floundering in a state from which only when they emerge can they hope to begin to act. Be glad, therefore, that future neophytes will be able to learn privately, methodically, far from the distracting glare of the footlights. And be glad that they, not you, will be defraying the cost of tuition.

MAX BEERBOHM.

THE CITY.

AFFAIRS in the City have been decidedly more interesting during the past week. Apart from two distinctly outside causes—which are referred to later in American and South African affairs—this interest has come from an improvement in that most mysterious set of conditions expressed in the term "money", which the average reader doubtless considers very dry and uninteresting stuff to read about. We have on several occasions in these columns drawn attention to the disparity existing between the official rate for money as expressed in the Bank of England rate and the rates in the open market, and although the collections on account of revenue have considerably diminished the market supply of cash, yet the actual sums still available are so considerable that the pressure of cheap money is beginning to become a factor to be counted with. The result is shown in rising prices which we believe will continue unless some combination arising from the war introduces a fresh check. We make the above remarks specially for the benefit of the bona fide investor who is, we are informed, holding back from taking advantage of the present condition in the hope of obtaining even better bargains. It is possible that he may do so but it is morally certain that he will never hit off quite the bottom price and it is for this reason that money rates may not be disregarded—cheap money must tell.

On Monday last the Government broker bought £50,000 Consols and even this relatively small transaction, which a short time ago could have been accomplished with scarcely a change in the quotation, had quite an appreciable effect and, aided since by small investment orders, the premier security closes with an advance of nearly 1 per cent. Other gilt-edged stocks have been steady and international securities have been distinctly firm, more especially Spanish and Turks which particularly reflect the renewed confidence of the Continental bourses. The returns of the Argentine railway companies continue to be satisfactory and the bear selling of Grand Trunk issues appears to have come to an end for the present, doubtless in view of better advices as to the weather in Canada.

The incubus which has weighed down the American railway section for so long has at length been removed and the decision as to the illegality of the Northern Securities combine was immediately reflected in a substantial rise throughout the list. The rise however has not been altogether sustained chiefly owing to the nervousness arising from knowledge of the tremendous resource of the financiers who are antagonistic to the decision, who may be relied upon to take every means to stultify as far as possible the effect of the ruling. There are rumours also that there are many corporations who may be proceeded against under the Sherman Act and, whilst this feeling exists, the sense of insecurity must be detrimental to industrial and railroad securities in the United States. Apart from this we believe that, the principal objection having been removed, a recovery is warranted and almost certain to take place in railroad securities—the southern lines especially should respond, for although the cotton crop is about 10 per cent. below the average, yet the selling price of cotton is about 80 per cent. above the average, and the additional purchasing power of the community must make itself felt.

The South African mining market was naturally somewhat perplexed as to the exact meaning of the official telegram in regard to Chinese labour and the immediate effect was a drooping in prices. However, further reflection brought a reassuring tone and a

decided improvement took place, but prices tailed off again on the announcement of the vote of censure to be moved in the House of Commons. It is stated that 5,000 Chinese labourers are already available and as it is unlikely that the outstanding points of detail will remain unsettled for long it is hoped that within two months the first batch may be at work. The information which has been cabled that the Transvaal Estates and Development Company have struck "blue ground" at a depth of 60 feet on their farm Zonderwater is likely to be a matter of very great importance if the further reports substantiate the cabled advices. The farm referred to touches the boundary of the farm on which the celebrated Premier mine is situate and it would be a compensating stroke of fortune if the company having missed the Premier—as they did we understand through a slip in negotiations—should find another diamond mine on their own property. If the indications are confirmed the shares should be very valuable.

BRITISH LIFE ASSURANCE.

THE Blue Book giving the official returns of British Life offices for the year 1902 has recently been published. The New York Insurance Report, giving the whole of the figures for 1903, will be out almost immediately; and the accounts of a great many British offices for last year have already been published. This long delay in the issue of the British Blue Book deprives it of much of its interest, and makes its official summary inconveniently out of date.

It proves, however, that British Life assurance in 1902 was in a very satisfactory position. The ordinary, as distinct from industrial, Life offices possessed between them funds amounting to £267,000,000 which yielded interest at the relatively satisfactory rate of £3 13s. 4d. per cent. per annum after deduction of income-tax upon both invested and uninvested assets. The agents' balances, cash at bank, and other non-interest bearing assets amounted to £15,000,000. Such a yield as £3 13s. 4d. is not unsatisfactory, although it shows a falling off of about 7s. per cent. as compared with ten years ago. As against this reduction must be set the fact that most companies have adopted a lower rate of interest in valuing their liabilities, with the result that the difference between the rates of interest assumed and earned is greater than was formerly the case, and that consequently the surplus for participating policy-holders is larger than it used to be, and the financial position of the companies stronger than formerly.

Another good feature that is clearly proved by the official returns is that the average rate of expenditure is steadily decreasing. Ten years ago it was 15 per cent. of the premium income: in 1902 it was only 13.7 per cent. This saving of 1.3 per cent. of the premiums is no exceptional feature, but is a continuation of a steady reduction in this item that has been taking place for many years past. As the total ordinary premiums received amounted to £23,000,000 this improvement in economy represents a clear gain to the policy-holders of something like £300,000 a year.

Another item closely connected with expenditure is the proportion of the premium income taken by the shareholders of proprietary companies. This item naturally varies from year to year in consequence of the profits for the most part being divided every five years, and therefore no one year affords reliable indication of the changes taking place in this respect. But looking at the dividends to shareholders for some years past it becomes abundantly clear that they are receiving less than formerly. This change is not due to smaller profits, but to the larger proportion of the surplus which it is now customary to give to participating policy-holders.

The Annuity business transacted by the Life offices is distinctly smaller than it was a few years ago. The amount received for Annuities is a mere trifle in excess of £2,000,000: doubtless this change is partly due to the less favourable terms which the companies can now afford to grant to annuitants in consequence of the falling off in the rate of interest that can be earned upon the funds.

A comparison of the principal items in the present Blue Book with the corresponding items of twenty-two years ago shows that the premiums have very nearly doubled and the Life funds have rather more than doubled in this period, while the annuity business is nearly three and a half times what it was in 1880.

The total ordinary assurances in force are stated to be £677,000,000 but these figures are still more out of date than the annual accounts, since they are compiled from valuation returns which even in 1902 were in some cases four years old. The most striking thing about the policies in force is the continued great increase in the amount of endowment assurances. A summary of this kind was first published in 1888 when endowment assurances constituted less than 6 per cent. of the total assurances in force: they now exceed 26 per cent. of the whole, or about seven times as much as the corresponding item of twelve years back. Another somewhat noticeable feature is the appreciable increase in the proportion of policies on the without-profit plan. This is a quite recent change which is partly accounted for by the much more favourable terms for non-profit assurance now quoted by some of the strongest and best companies.

CORRESPONDENCE.

GOETHE ON TAKING NOTES.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

State University of Iowa, Iowa City,
5 March, 1904.

SIR,—I was pleased to read your interesting article on "The Vice of Taking Notes" and the comments that it has called out. A wide circulation of such views as yours will do much towards checking this pernicious practice; the habit of taking notes certainly is pernicious when it is carried to extremes. My student life in Europe convinced me that the practice is nowhere more common than it is, and has been for a long time, in German universities. Indeed, many German professors encourage it by adopting a style of delivery that makes note-taking easy. Goethe expressed his contempt for this formal, mechanical method of instruction when he made Mephistopheles in "Faust" give the innocent student the following ironical advice:—

"Yet in thy writing as unwearied be,
As did the Holy Ghost dictate to thee!"

I have the honour, Sir, to be,

Very truly yours,

CHARLES BUNDY WILSON.

[We have much pleasure in printing this letter.—
ED. S. R.]

MATTHEW ARNOLD'S STANDARDS.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Moscow, March 9, 1904.

SIR,—Mr. Weekes in your issue of 5 March made a statement to the effect that few people appear to have read Matthew Arnold.

The evidence he adduces is that in a review of Crabbe one or two of Arnold's most celebrated phrases were employed without acknowledgment and that no comments were made on this proceeding. This fact seems to me to tend rather to prove that such phrases as "inevitableness" (which Arnold, Mr. Weekes will remember, borrowed from Wordsworth) and "natural magic" are so well known that the use of them without inverted commas excites no surprise, and that they are in fact recognised as having become a part of the English language.

I doubt whether Matthew Arnold would have acquiesced in Mr. Weekes' definition of Crabbe as a third-rate Wordsworth.

Dr. Johnson, Burke, Fox, Byron, Miss Austen, Edward Fitzgerald and Tennyson would certainly not have done so.

I am, Sir,

Yours, &c.

MAURICE BARING.

KING'S COLLEGE SCHOOL.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

King's College School, Wimbledon Common,
12 March, 1904.

SIR,—May I point out two slight inaccuracies in the interesting account you give, in your issue of the 5th inst., of King's College School?

Mr. Bourne—the headmaster—was appointed in 1889 (not 1899) and the new buildings were opened by the Duke of Cambridge in 1899 (not 1889): secondly Mr. Heyer is responsible for the French work of the school (not the German). He has been absent for the past few weeks on a mission to raise funds for the purchase of additional playing fields. During this time I have taken his work, and am able to endorse fully the remarks of your correspondent. Among other things Mr. Heyer has succeeded in teaching his junior forms to sing French songs wonderfully well—and the effect on their pronunciation is marked. The comparison of his work with Mr. Siepmann's is a happy one. I have had the pleasure of a short experience at first hand of both—in many ways their systems are similar.

I think it extremely probable that Old Boys of King's College School will be looking to see this matter corrected, and therefore I venture to write you these few lines.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

H. RANGER PARTON.

SO-CALLED PARLIAMENTARY ABSURDITIES.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Killiney, co. Dublin, 15 March, 1904.

SIR,—“I venture to think” that there is “no shadow of foundation” for the charge that “I am free to confess” is an absurdity in or out of Parliament. I have myself frequently heard Archbishop R. C. Trench, who had drunk so deep of the well of English undefiled, make use of the expression ridiculed by your correspondent. I do not stand up so vigorously for the other two.

I am, yours,

ROBERT STAVELEY, Canon.

THE WORST THREE TAGS.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

The Oaks, Botley, Hampshire.

13 March, 1904.

SIR,—May I offer you three more tags—which besides being of tiresome repetition, are in themselves so silly, as to seem to have a fair claim to be reckoned—at least among—the worst?

1. The “exception” that “proves the rule”.
2. “Nothing, if not” critical.
3. “Always” the “unexpected that happens”.

I am in the habit, after a day or two's enjoyment of the SATURDAY REVIEW of sending it away to another reader, and therefore I am unable at this moment to make myself sure that none of the above tags has been already brought to your notice; but I hope not.

I am, yours truly,

R. LINDSAY.

THE USE OF “AN”.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

University Club, Dublin.

SIR,—Is not this a question of etymology rather than phonetics? The indefinite article “an” is identical with the Scotch “ane” and both are closely related to the numeral adjective “one”. The form “a” is a phonetic degeneration caused by the elision of the final “n” before a consonant. Obsolete grammars say that “a” becomes “an” before a vowel for euphony—the fact is precisely the reverse. “An” becomes “a” before a consonant for euphony, if we like to put it so—or rather, because it was more trouble to say “an man” “an boot” and the like than “a man” “a boot”. But in Lowland Scotch (which really is Old English) “ane” is systematically used as the indefinite article, whether before a vowel or a consonant. Even in the Authorised Version of the Bible, which is comparatively modern as a model of English, we find “an horse” “an heap” and some other instances of “an” before an aspirated “h”, though not before an actual consonant. This may suggest that in some of the

cases quoted by your correspondents the writers criticised were correct in using “an” even before an apparently consonantal initial vowel. It seems to me more correct, not only to write but to pronounce “an usurper” than “a usurper”.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.

EDWARD STANLEY ROBERTSON.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Norris Hill, Ashby de la Zouche,
Sunday, 13 March, 1904.

SIR,—In this Morning's Psalm v. 4 occurs “an horse” v. 15 “an hill” v. 21 “a one” v. 6 “an house”.

This is in direct contravention to the explanation offered by your correspondent Mr. H. Sutherland Edwards in your last week's issue. Is it not rather a question of custom or fashion than of a hard and fast rule?

Yours sincerely,

F. RUSSELL DONISTHORPE.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—I cannot agree with your correspondent's rules: I don't think the accent on the second syllable has anything to do with the use of “an” before “h”; while I should probably agree with him in saying “an hotel” because it is a French word in which the “h” would not be sounded. I should certainly say “a Homeric encounter”, “a historical fact”, even to take his own examples. To take my own—who would say “an harangue” “an hoopoe” “an harpoon” or “an hyperbole”? Who but Uriah Heep “an humiliation”? As regards “a” before “u” it is surely invariable before long “u”, I presume because we practically put a consonantal sound before it—“yoo”. But by his rule we ought to say “an use” “an useless” or “an useful—”, for the “u” is not an independent syllable; we don't say “u-seful”.

Yours faithfully, T. CHRISTIE.

[We should say, and we believe most of the best English scholars would say with us, “an hyperbole” “an harpoon” and so on. We object strongly to “a historic” “a Homeric”. We gave our rule in a previous issue.—ED. S. R.]

THE SUPERLATIVE.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—I have before me an advertisement of—shall I say?—six novels, an infinitesimal part of the thousands yearly printed. How are they described?—“Charm, reckless mystery and passion”; “the only teller of such wild tales”; “delicate, subtle humour”; “glorious, manly work”; “weird, intensely tragic, strong, original, realistic”.

And now, Sir, listen to my personal experience. I am but one of hundreds of other like scribblers—probably not six of your readers would recognise my name, if given, as that of a writer of novels. And yet how have I been criticised?

For every book, anonymous or in my own name, I can show some forty or more reviews of fulsome praise:—“irony and satire equalling Swift”; “the best piece of broad farce in fiction”; “the hand of the scholar and the gentleman”, “the book of the season”. This gross use of the superlative can harm but little those of us with grey hairs—we write for personal pleasure and, perhaps, because we wish—more or less foolishly—to teach the world. But the young? The coming men on whom the future of romance literature depends? The influence of this lavish, indiscriminate praise must be wholly bad: the young writer must lose all sense of perspective. Drugged, at the outset of his career, with human flattery he will lose the power of continuous self-education, necessary for honest success in art; imbued with belief that he is born great, he will fail to advance—he must, indeed, deteriorate; for the impressions from one and the same plate grow dimmer and less artistic with time. Let the young writer understand that these superlatives mean nothing, lead to nothing,—unless failure in art. If he doubt, I can show him the useless lumber of hundreds of them. They are merely the careless expressions of exaggerated good nature. But, even so, lurks danger.

Constantly taken to heart they as surely destroy honest, godlike endeavour, as morphia destroys honest godlike digestion.

Your obedient servant,
NEMO.

ENGLISH AND GERMAN BREAD PRICES.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Hamburg, 12 March, 1904.

SIR,—Your correspondent at Port Elizabeth, referring to this matter, still harps upon my conclusions as to what prices ought to be in England if the "Daily Telegraph's" Berlin figures are correct. There being no law in Germany compelling bakers to sell bread over the counter by weight, though the public is well protected otherwise, and there not being a uniform size for wheaten bread, such as the quarter loaf in England, being on this side sold in all sorts of fancy shapes, there is a difficulty in arriving at a fair average quotation. On the other hand the quotations I gave you from this place for the here predominant wheat and rye mixture, as wholesome and nourishing a food as any I have met with, were absolutely correct as being taken from advertisements by well-known distributing bakeries; having made further inquiries the method of weighing for advertising purposes may be questioned, the weight not unlikely being taken when coming fresh from the oven; but this point may be circumvented by taking the actual weight after making a purchase.

The proof of the pudding being in the eating, I proceeded to a well-known baker's shop, that dates its existence from the eighteenth century and is renowned for the quality of its "Feinbrod" made of rye and wheat combined and purchased for 10 pfenning (a very useful nickel coin) a loaf weighing 380 grammes of a quality that has no superior anywhere; they had the additional courtesy to weigh for me a 30-pfenning loaf, scaling 1,250 grammes, which reduced to English weight and money gives almost exactly a 4-lb. loaf for 5d., with a duty of 7s. 6d. per quarter as at present in force here:—Bread can certainly be bought cheaper elsewhere here, but I should think this to be sufficient for present requirements.

The Altona flour mills your correspondent refers to were well known to me in the fifties, when I served my apprenticeship in a grain merchant's office in Altona, an Englishman being part owner; an extensive trade was at that time negotiated between Baltic ports and United Kingdom ports. Altona then being a free port, until it was finally absorbed by Prussia in 1866, the flour mills were flourishing then, and under the fostering care of the Government, assisted by cartels, no doubt have done well since. But why they should be allowed to supply the United Kingdom with flour, having themselves to import their surplus grain from elsewhere, appears beyond comprehension, if it were not for the crazy ways of an antiquated free-trade dogma, the secret mirth and scorn of competitors on the Continent. Our Government is surely at fault in not protecting its own industry, instead of favouring people abroad, who have taken every advantage of England's generous institutions, but never harbour a kind thought even in return.

If cartels are applied elsewhere against this country, they are speedily enough denounced as "unlauterer Wettbewerb", the equivalent of unclean or unfair competition, and are dealt with rigorously; they surely ought to have the same measure meted out to them in order to prevent our industry from becoming gradually impoverished.

When your correspondent admits that a duty of 2s. per quarter on grain will scarcely be felt by the consumer, we get on better terms, and I will gladly admit the uprightness of his statements. But our methods may after all be old-fashioned and open for improvements; the nourishing value of our bread certainly may, and should be cheapened at the same time. Anyway as a revenue has to be raised by the Government somewhere, this one by giving a slight advantage to the colonies may have to be paid by the foreigner entirely!

I hope I have not trespassed too far on your space, and I am, Sir,

Yours most respectfully,

A. DROEGE.

REVIEWS.

D'ANNUNZIO THE POET.

Gabriele d'Annunzio: "Laudi del Cielo, del Mare, della Terra e degli Eroi". Vol. II. Milano: Treves. 1904.

THE second volume of the "Laudi" is as large but not as formidable as the first volume; for it is written in many metres and contains many separate poems. The substance is infinitely more interesting; the form shows a much wider range of accomplishment. Never, indeed, has d'Annunzio shown himself a more complete musician of the art of verse, and there is here and there a poem perhaps more genuinely poetic than anything he has yet written.

The first section of the book is largely a song of heroes; there are poems on Garibaldi, the young King, Nietzsche, Victor Hugo, Verdi, with a vast series of sonnets on "Le Città di Silenzio", in which the glories of Italian cities are celebrated, and a "Canto augurale per la nazione eletta". In all this there is a great deal of fervid and eloquent writing, but, except in some of the descriptions, little that seems sincere with more than the orator's sincerity of the moment, little that does not become tedious with the tedium of unfelt emotion. Page follows page like these lines which we take from a poem "per la morte di un capolavoro"; they speak of Christ, the Christ of Leonardo's "Last Supper", or, if we please, of the gospels:

"Culmine delle speranze sovrumane,
alta anima senza compagna,
precinta isola dal dolore infinito,
solitudine dell'abisso,
occhio aperto e fisso
nel interna mare
della Bellezza, ebbe Egli un nome per voi?"

How little all this means, and how soon we are wearied of this orator in verse, who seems to talk for the sake of talking, and who expects to be listened to because he has a beautiful voice. Much in the latter part of the book has something of the same quality of tedium, especially the four "Ditirambi", which are all gesture, and some of the classical studies, which are no more than elegant scholastic exercises, done with great purity of style. But, among these classical studies, there are some which have a genuine personal quality, and a feeling for what was at the root of classical mythology. The dialogue in sonnets, "La Corona di Glauco", has fine outline and moves to the sound of steady music; "Versilia", the nymph of the woods, and "Udulna", the nymph of the water, speak as if with the actual life of sap and of springs. With these may be classed a series of poems which render with extraordinary subtlety certain natural sensations: the joy of sunlight in "Meriggio", the singing of water in "L'Onda" and "Intra du' Arno", the delight of rain among the trees in "La Pioggia nel Pineto", with all that is expressed in the title "Lungo l'Affrico nella sera di giugno dopo la pioggia". They might be called "poems and lyrics of the joy of earth", though with a significance by no means the same as Meredith's. Their joy is a joy from which not only the intellect but the reason itself is excluded; they render the sensations of animal pleasure in merely living, and being conscious of life. Their ecstasy is to sing:

"Perduta è ogni traccia
dell'uomo. Voce non suona,
se ascolta. Ogni duolo
umano m'abbandona.
Non ho più nome.

Ardo, riluco.
E non ho più nome.
E l'alpi e l'isole e i golfi
e i capi e i fari e i boschi
e le foci ch'io nomai
non han più l'usato nome
che suona in labbra umane.
Non ho più nome nè sorte
tra gli uomini; ma il mio nome
è Meriggio. In tutto io vivo
tacito come la Morte.
E la mia vita è divina."

Within these limits of sensation they have infinite delicacies, and this verse which is so often eloquent without saying anything becomes suddenly precise, with a new beauty of exactitude; as in

"Nascente Luna, in cielo esigua come
il sopracciglio de la giovinetta";

or

"Le colline incurvano leggiere
come le onde del vento nella sabbia
del mare e non fan ombra, quasi d'aria".

Often, in these poems, the words are, as the writer says of them:

"tenui come i teli
che fra due steli
tesse il ragno."

A whole new order of rhythms comes into d'Annunzio's work in the search for some means of expressing almost inarticulate meanings. The poem called "L'Onda" goes leaping down the page in a veritable cascade of thin and curving lines, after this fashion:

"Di spruzzi, di sprazzi,
di fiochi, d'iridi
ferve nella risacca;
par che di crisopazzi
scintilli
e di berilli
viridi a sacca."

And there are, for other effects, lines of immense length, longer, perhaps, than any Italian poet has used before; all are handled with the same fiery assurance.

What is curious, however, in this book, as in much Italian poetry, is the license which permits, in verse of fine technical accomplishment, a paucity and irregularity of rhyme which does not exist in the verse of any other language. Poems written entirely without rhyme are arranged in the form of stanzas: for what purpose? Poems, in which only the last line of each stanza, or perhaps eight lines, rhymes, disconcert at all events the foreign ear, which refuses to carry on a sound so remotely recurrent. There is one poem here, "Albasia", which consists of two stanzas of nineteen lines each, in which the last lines of the two stanzas rhyme together. And in many places assonances are allowed to stand for rhymes, bad rhymes like "coperchio" and "specchio" are used, or lines are suddenly left unrhymed for no apparent reason. Is there, one asks, a reason for all these things, and is it a reason which can be realised outside Italy? For it is quite certain that d'Annunzio never wrote a line carelessly, or left it other than as he intended it to be.

In this book, for the first time, it seems to us, with the possible exception of "Francesca da Rimini", d'Annunzio the poet has brought his technique to the point which d'Annunzio the prose-writer had long ago reached. The verse becomes less formal, less formally accomplished within too narrow limits; it becomes at last a means of speech. What has always been most significant in the novels and in the plays is the power of rendering sensation, with a directness, an acuteness, almost painful. That power is only now fully evident in the verse; and it is because we find that power, in this new volume of verse, only now fully evident, that we are inclined to welcome this second volume of the "Laudi" as, still with the possible exception of "Francesca", the most important book of poetry that d'Annunzio has yet given us.

THE "CODELESS MYRIAD OF PRECEDENT."

"The Judicial Dictionary of Words and Phrases judicially interpreted, to which has been added Statutory Definitions." By F. Stroud. Three vols. London: Sweet and Maxwell. 1903. £4 4s.

THE mass of precedents in which the law of England is embodied is under a perpetual process of enlargement, constantly accelerated by the increase in the number of reported decisions. Theoretically the law is to be found in a well-defined series of principles, dating from time immemorial and possessing the attribute of permanence in a high degree, yet it is subject

in practice to a never-ending course of evolution rendered necessary by the varying requirements of successive generations. More especially is this apparent where, as in England, a series of reported decisions supplies, in the main, both text and commentary. In the development of a system of case law "it is taken absolutely for granted", says Maine, "that there is somewhere a rule of known law which will cover the facts of the dispute now litigated . . . yet the moment the judgment has been rendered and reported, we slide unconsciously or unavowedly into a new language and a new train of thought. We now admit that the new decision *has* modified the law". In the result, leaving aside for the moment the question whether our law can be said to present a consistent or intelligible body of principle at all, or whether the witty description of it as "chaos tempered by Fisher's Digest" is justified, the fact remains that its volume is such that the industrious practitioner may well be expected to sink overwhelmed by the treasures which are at hand to enrich his arguments. It is only to be expected, therefore, in an age which has witnessed the application of labour-saving machinery to every branch of industry that attempts should be made to provide assistance in the task of extracting from the mass of authorities such examples as will best serve to illustrate the conclusions arrived at by a long process of judicial interpretation.

Mr. Stroud's "Judicial Dictionary", now in its second edition, is an attempt to facilitate these labours and is far more than a mechanical aid to the discovery of convenient definitions. It is not a concise conspectus similar to the "Encyclopædia of the Laws of England", nor is it a digest, nor even a law lexicon of the familiar type; it is, as it claims to be, a dictionary of the English language in so far as its words and phrases have received judicial interpretation, and it provides, on the whole, a valuable terminology extending over the wide field of English law and consequently of English affairs. The book is extremely well done, the author having applied himself with success to the work of selecting definitions, principally, though not exclusively, judicial, for the words included in his dictionary. The bulk of the judicial pronouncements are, not unnaturally, of comparatively recent date, an illustration of the manner in which the organism of our law is perpetually developing in relation to the necessities of the time. If the principles are old, their applications are new, or at all events the old principles are constantly being clothed in a new dress more suited to the fashions of the day. The author's claim to a somewhat extended sphere of utility, though it must command sympathy, is less likely to justify itself in practice. He aspired to produce a work which "may be a living entity to business people in the various societies forming the British Empire". It is not from any desire unduly to magnify their own office that lawyers are apt to look askance upon attempts by untrained minds to resort to legal authorities, and we confess that we share the professional opinion. Though there is much to be said for the view that a legal habit of mind is apt occasionally to lead to over-subtlety and undue refinement, it is on the whole desirable that practical affairs, when they have to be submitted to the touchstone of legal principle, should be left to be dealt with by those specially trained for the purpose.

It would be pleasant if the conclusion stated in the preface to the first edition could obtain more cordial agreement. "It is impossible", we are told, "to arise from these labours without a deepened admiration for the judges of our land. It is extraordinary that so many minds, working through so many centuries, and upon such various matters, should have been able so harmoniously to lay down the law for such an expansive and ever-widening civilisation as that of the British Empire. And probably in no sphere of their duties has the work of the judges been more distinguished than in dealing with the composite subtleties of English diction". It will be apparent that Mr. Stroud is an optimist. How far is his optimism justified? That the law of England, descended from a remote antiquity and enriched throughout its long history by a wealth of illustration whose value is largely enhanced by its derivation from actual cases practically worked

out under the responsibility of doing justice in each particular instance—that this accumulation is, on the whole, permeated by an harmonious series of principles, is at all events a tenable proposition. But if the principles exist, where are they to be found? It is the form, rather than the substance, against which criticism is most frequently and with the greatest justice, directed. In so far as the enormous material contained in the decided cases supplies a mass of illustrative examples and a foundation for valuable distinctions, our law does indeed suffer from the defects of its qualities. But of English jurisprudence, in the sense of a body of principle clearly stated, and widely applicable, it may be said, as was said by an observer of our constitution—"elle n'existe point". The dislike for formulating abstract conclusions, the avoidance of general propositions which characterises the political as well as other departments of the national life, are here once more exemplified. Our legal text-books are in the main mere digests of the cases bearing upon the particular subjects with which they deal. The legislature, in framing statutes, addresses itself to the one immediate object in view, with little or no regard for possible effects upon other branches of the law and with still less concern for general principles. With the exception of the Interpretation Act, which Mr. Stroud has very rightly reprinted at the end of his volumes, our Acts of Parliament do not, speaking generally, contain anything directed beyond the scope of the enactment in which they occur. Even a definition included in the definition clause cannot with safety be applied beyond the limits of the act which contains it. The demand for codification is less insistent than it was a generation ago, not perhaps because so much has been done to satisfy it—although the amount of law which has been embodied in Acts of Parliament is now very considerable—but rather because the results attained have failed to justify the expectations of reforming enthusiasts. The statutes themselves are dominated by the case law. The difficulties of interpretation inherent in every attempt to arrive at concise statements of wide application, taken in connexion with the mental attitude of a Bench trained to recognise judicial authority as supreme, render the statutes a mere framework into which the decisions resulting from their discussion are fitted. The practice of relying on the decisions of the Courts in preference to dealing with questions of interpretation on more or less general principles tends to increase even in systems where the law is embodied in a code, this tendency being at the present time particularly noticeable in the greater respect paid by the German Courts to reported decisions. It follows that the importance of precedents is not likely to decline either in our own legal system or in those of Continental countries, and that they, with England, are adding to the volume of their law at a rate which tends to increase with the growing complexity of affairs.

A work such as the "Judicial Dictionary" is the result of a process of selection. Its value lies in the assistance afforded by it in finding a starting point, a basis for the propositions upon which an opinion, an argument or a judgment is to rest. The wanderer amid the labyrinth of judicial decisions should find in Mr. Stroud a friend to aid him in

"Mastering the lawless science of our law,
That codeless myriad of precedent,
That wilderness of single instances,
Through which a few by art or fortune led
May beat a pathway out to wealth and fame".

A GALLERY OF SARGENTS.

"The Work of John S. Sargent R.A." With an Introductory Note by Mrs. Meynell. London: Heinemann. 1904. £6 6s.

THIS is a splendid volume of reproductions by photogravure of over sixty pictures and studies by Mr. Sargent. We may begin by praising the reproductions themselves. They are remarkably brilliant. Yet the credit for this is partly due to the pictures. It is the decided character of the tone-

vision in the painting that guarantees the result in black-and-white, and the vigour of handling tells as it does in photographs after Constable. Indeed some of these reproductions flatter the originals by suggesting a finer quality of paint than they can claim.

The selection includes the greater number of the pieces that ought to be in such a gallery, and also a certain number of things that might have been replaced by better. A portrait painter who works as hard and as fast as Mr. Sargent must turn out a good many pieces that have no vivid interest, from sitters who have suggested nothing in particular, smart ladies in white satin who have had to be treated by formula, magnates overcome by their own frockcoats. The pest of the fashionable portrait painter is the ordinarily pretty and charming woman, whose features, when they come to be painted, present nothing that will make a picture design. One is inclined to resent sometimes the waste of Mr. Sargent's forces in this direction, and to wish that he might take the leisure to pick his own characters out of the wonderful world that is ready to his hand. When the apt character comes under his brush the difference, in zest and power, shows itself at once. The humour of the "Lady Faudel-Phillips", the challenge of the "Miss Wertheimers"—one laughs with pleasure to see them again; the second of them will have its place for ever among portraits. So with the "Ian Hamilton", and the "Lord Ribblesdale". A strong impulse, admiring, ironic or defiant has gone to produce such images of character, demeanour and race.

Deliberate picture-building has not been the first thought in much of Mr. Sargent's work; but it has been a growing interest, strengthened, no doubt, by his decorative work at Boston. Among the single portraits here, one of the most deliberate designs, and a remarkable one, is that of Miss Ellen Terry, as Lady Macbeth. In later work the groups are an interesting study. The greatest invention, we should say, is the "Mrs. Carl Meyer with her Children". The combination, here, of vivacious and almost momentary action with design in the grouping is original and successful in a high degree. The "Lady Elcho, Mrs. Tennant and Mrs. Adeane" is a more statical, less difficult and very beautiful piece of building. The "Ladies Alexandra, Mary and Theo Acheson" does not move or stand together with the unity of these two, and the "Miss Hunters" seems to us only ingenious.

The few drawings given illustrate the negative side of Mr. Sargent, or perhaps something that persists from his schooling, rather than his talent. The gift is certainly there that distinguishes him among all the painters of his time, the exactness of eye that allows him to get with ease what many fine artists have to toil for, the photographic facts of a case, the actual placing of features. But in the line drawings there is little art or delight added to this notation. In the most elaborate the forms are chopped off to a hairsbreadth, but chopping off is the character of the line. The profile of Madame Gautreau is more fluent, but not very sensitive. A third drawing is a rude "blocking-in". How such blocking-in can be vivified when the brush is taken in hand the oil study of "Joseph Jefferson" illustrates, and for a prize piece of close, sinuous drawing it would be hard to beat the "Egyptian Girl".

Mrs. Meynell's preliminary essay is an interesting and finished piece of writing, but remains a little remote from its subject, whose ruthless drive at character through paint seems hardly of the kind to captivate a lover of the exquisite.

REAL JAPAN.

"Japan and her People." By Anna C. Hartshorne. Two vols. London: Kegan Paul. 1903. 21s. net. "A Handbook of Modern Japan." By Ernest W. Clement. Chicago: McClurg. 1903.

WE cannot fairly judge Japan by precisely our own standards, and the only way to arrive at a reasonable estimate of the nation's true progress is to compare carefully the conditions which prevailed there less than sixty years ago with those of to-day. In

many respects Japan is still Old Japan, for its inhabitants have not thought fit to copy the West in everything, and it is fervently to be hoped they never will. Japan retains most of its former charming characteristics unaltered for the worse by contact with the Western civilisation that made of the nation a modern Power, the Japan with which Mr. Clement is concerned. No more striking result of the introduction of Western arts and sciences into Japan is anywhere to be discerned than in the matter of female education. The status of womanhood was raised enormously by the special enactments of the first few years of the present Emperor's reign, and the utmost care is now being given to the training of Japanese girls. The old notion that woman's place was quite a subordinate one and that she might never assert her independence or claim equality with man has long been exploded, and evidence of her complete emancipation in Japan is found in the remarkable achievements of Mrs. Hiraoka, of Osaka, the lady who made Moji. Ranking next to Port Said, perhaps, Moji has become one of the most prominent among the seaports of the world as a coaling station, though a quarter of a century ago it was merely a fishing village facing Shimonoseki, across the straits of that name. Herself a banker's daughter, Mrs. Hiraoka, as a banker's wife, succeeded in resuscitating the drooping fortunes of the banking firm of Kajimaya, by embarking in coal-mining enterprises on her own account. She prospered exceedingly and proved herself a business woman of marvellous capacity for figures. Moji, as the port from which the coal was exported, grew rapidly, and its supplies of this fuel to passing steamers, and to colliers that load there for foreign countries, now exceed in value a million and a half sterling per annum. Mrs. Hiraoka is a great believer in woman's work, and employs female clerks in the Kajimaya bank, of which she is now the head.

In "Japan and her People" we have a series of vivid and well-conceived sketches of life in Japan. The style is clear and concise, the choice of subjects good, and nothing could be better than the photogravure illustrations—twenty-five to each volume—of Japanese scenery and types of the inhabitants. A word must be said, too, for the essentially Japanese design in green and gold of the covers. The chapters devoted to Tokio, Nikko, Kioto, and so forth may not give us many new facts, but here and there one comes upon bits of description that are of real value and mark the work of a close but tolerant observer. Where the habits and customs of the people are concerned accuracy has been the writer's goal. A pretty touch is given to the account of the wife's part in a Japanese household, the allusion to the Samurai creed being, in view of possibilities, peculiarly appropriate. "She is house-mistress in the truest sense, responsible for all and controlling all. She directs the servants, men as well as women; she watches over the children's morning greetings . . . the pretty phrases exchanged when anyone goes out or comes in; she is at the door, with the household, to say O kaeri ('honourably welcome') when the master of the house comes back from even the briefest absence. A survival, perhaps, this last, from the days when a man kept literally the Samurai injunction, 'Leaving thy house, leave ever as one who may not return'." This is a true picture of everyday domestic life, in the multitude of Japanese homes. The "mousmee" of the globe-trotter, and the geisha, on or off the stage, have in it neither part nor lot. It is almost ungracious to point out an inaccuracy where all, as a rule, is accurate, but the three "chief places" counted the most beautiful of all in Japan—the san-kei—are not Nikko, Matsushima and Miyajima, but Ama-no-Hashidate, Matsushima and Miyajima (properly termed Itsukushima)—three names given to three sister cruisers of the Japanese navy. Nikko is peerless, and has a place to itself, apart from the san-kei. With what is said of the three places indicated, however, in respect of their freedom from invasion by the scurrying tourist, lying as they do far away from the beaten track, and of their being not only picturesque but eminently characteristic of Japanese landscape, no fault whatever is to be found. Matsushima, with its 196 islets, is not far from Sendai, midway between Yokohama and Hakodate in the extreme north.

Itsukushima, the isle of beauty, is close to Hiroshima, in the Inland Sea, and Ama-no-Hashidate is in a nook of the Western coast, facing Korea. They are each and all well worthy of a visit from those who care for exquisite natural scenery. We may close our notice of a charming book with the last words of a great son of Japan. Daté, Prince of Sendai, the last of the great men of the sixteenth century, whose statue is to be seen in the temple of Matsushima, when age and sickness had brought him low, regretfully remarked, "I die in bed, and not in the saddle, as I had hoped. The empire is at peace; but who knows how long peace will endure? Order and quiet enervate men, and when the moment of action arrives, there are no longer any soldiers. See to it that men do not degenerate. Do not forget my last counsel". Japan, as a nation, has not forgotten Daté Masamuné, and has well remembered his dying words.

NOVELS.

"The American Prisoner." By Eden Phillpotts. London: Methuen. 1904. 6s.

"The American Prisoner" is far in advance of Mr. Phillpotts' previous books, but the effect of the excellent workmanship shown in many of its pages is impaired by a want of unity in the book. The author has attempted to interweave in one story three separate threads which show a tendency to ravel or to tangle. There is a markedly melodramatic tale of love and adventure written with the romantic inspiration, there is a conscientious historical novel recounting the doings of the American prisoners of war who were—with many French companions—interned at Princetown in 1812 and the following years, and lastly there is a study of Dartmoor and its rural life. That an American prisoner should fall in love with the daughter of a Devon gentleman is for the novelist legitimate enough, but it is hardly necessary to trace in detail the daily life of the two lovers. Once interest in the romance has been established, the reader resents his compulsory return to Princetown, and becomes indifferent to the plots and mutinies of the prisoners. The romance itself suffers from the unnatural character of the lady's unwelcome but authorised suitor, a wool-stapler with a turn for poetry. Never since Lavengro pestered Isopel Berners with his Armenian tags has there been such a literary lover as this Peter Norcot. His knowledge of poetry is so complete that he is able to quote, and ascribe to its author, a lyric of George Darley (then an unknown and unpublished boy of nineteen) over which Mr. Palgrave blundered many years later. But Peter is also a daring man of action to whom a murder more or less is a trifle. The lady is insipid, but her father is a remarkable man finely realised. The Dartmoor atmosphere is in places too obtrusive, but no modern novelist (except Mr. Hardy) seems able to place scenery in its proper perspective. The Dartmoor rustics in this book are in some degree after Mr. Hardy, but they are none the worse company for that. The style, however, is irritating when Mr. Phillpotts is on what he apparently considers his best literary behaviour. "In nettles, stereobate deep, stands Fox Tor Farm. . . and no other nettles shall be found for miles." Very well, they sha'n't, but why shall a spirited story be ushered in with two pages of overdone word-painting that shall distress honest readers?

"The Trackless Way: the Story of a Man's Quest of God." By E. Rentoul Esler. London: R. Brimley Johnson. 1903. 6s.

Mrs. Esler has done some very distinctive work in fiction so that we take up a new book having her name on the title-page with unusual interest. But we are disappointed with "The Trackless Way". There is much that is good in the story but it is mixed with so much that is extravagant that we are unable to give it the cordial welcome we might have done had the level of certain parts been maintained. The man who is in "quest of God" is a Presbyterian minister of the north of Ireland, and when dealing with his people, and with the life of the Manse generally, when giving us scenes at the Presbytery, the Synod and the General Assembly

the author is almost uniformly successful, but unfortunately the modifying influence on the character of the hero is a scholarly and philosophical stone-breaker and basket-maker—a new kind of “Road-mender”—who turns out to be an Earl in disguise! This is too extravagant. Most unconvincing, too, is the flight of the minister's wife, and some of the consequences thereof. Towards the close Mrs. Esler gives us a new character in the person of the editor of a religious weekly journal who is fond of “running” new authors, and the portrait is one which suggests that it may be based upon an original. Readers with a taste for theology in fiction—and certain popular successes suggest that there must be many of them—who can forgive such a stale trick as the disguised Earl will find much to interest them in “The Trackless Way”, though the book is by no means the best of which Mrs. Esler is capable.

“The Gods are Just.” By Beatrice Helen Barmby. London: Duckworth. 1904. 6s.

The words of Edgar in “King Lear” have provided Miss Barmby with an admirable theme for a romantic story and on the whole she has handled her theme well, despite some crudeness and melodrama. The period of romance is that about the days of the South Sea Bubble and the scenes are laid in London and Suffolk, the plot being sufficiently complicated to keep the reader's attention. A hasty marriage and the disappearance of the stolen actress-bride, followed by her love for a man who turns out to be her husband's cousin and heir, and by that cousin's apparent murder, lead to interesting scenes.

“Legal T-Leaves.” By Edward F. Turner. London: Smith, Elder. 1903. 6s.

The author of these “lawyers' tales out of school” is to be congratulated on the neat way in which he handles legal technicalities and invests with human interest what are supposed to be mere “dry as dust” subjects. The stories are presumably to be judged as fiction and not always as technically accurate on points of law, for we feel sure that the legal critic could pick holes in some of the arguments and situations. The stories are not wildly exciting, but are told with a certain dry humour which renders them pleasant to read.

“Old Shropshire Life.” By Lady Catherine Milnes Gaskell. London: John Lane. 1904. 6s.

The stories contain no hint of sympathy with village or country life. Where they do not talk bad grammar—“The day, our story begins, it had rained all through the preceding night” and “he would treat him like S. Dunstan did”—the characters talk an extraordinary jargon which we cannot believe is typical of Shropshire or any other county. Here is a specimen:—“Thee sees the world through vinegar spectacles, I through honeyed ones”. There is a glossary of old Shropshire words.

NEW BOOKS AND REPRINTS.

“The Hampstead Shakespeare.” 4 vols. London: Finch. 1904. 21s.

Apart from its end papers, which do not appeal to us for any quality of beauty or taste, this is a first-class edition of Shakespeare's works, admirably printed on good sound paper. It is a thoroughly common-sensible and unaffected edition, with nothing pretty or dainty or meretricious. One volume contains the Comedies, another the Tragedies, Sonnets, &c., and a third the Histories. The fourth volume is Mr. Sidney Lee's “Life of Shakespeare”. In this Life the tedious Bacon or Shakespeare controversy is rightly pushed away into an appendix in small print, where Mr. Lee with some alliteration states that such authentic verses of Bacon as survive prove beyond all doubt that he was incapable of “penning any of the poetry assigned to Shakespeare”. The illustrations to this workmanlike edition of Shakespeare include photogravures of the Ely House portrait, the Chandos portrait in the National Gallery, and the Droeshout portrait in the Shakespeare Memorial Gallery at Stratford-on-Avon.

“A Royalist Family and Prince Charles Edward.” Translated from the French by A. G. Murray MacGregor. Edinburgh: William Brown. 1904. 7s. 6d.

The French original of this work edited by the Duc de la Trémoille has already been reviewed in these columns, but the interest of these letters is now considerably enhanced by the discovery of the key to the cipher which Charles Edward used

to communicate with his Paris agent, Antoine Vincent Walsh, the Nantes shipbuilder to whose loan of the “Dentelle” as it is known to English writers we owe the Prince's expedition to Scotland and the Jacobite rising of 1745. We are now able to gauge what were the Prince's hopes and fears in 1754 and 1757, two of the most obscure years of his life. This edition also includes several letters from the Duc de la Trémoille's family archives, which did not appear amongst the original collection. Thus there are two very interesting letters written by Richard Warren who rescued the Prince from Scotland in 1746 announcing his proposed departure from Matignon at the end of August and his arrival at Roscoff on 10 October with the Prince safe and sound on board the “Heureux”. Miss MacGregor has added some appendices which contain the rather fanciful story told by M. de la Nicollière Teigeso, the late archivist of the town of Nantes, of the earlier part of the expedition, some extracts from the “Lyon in Mourning”, a short biography of Philip Walsh, Antoine Walsh's father, who in 1695 was entrusted with letters of marque by the exiled King James II. authorising him to “attack, assail, burn, sink or otherwise destroy the vessels belonging to our enemies or to the enemies of our loyal friend and ally the King of France”. In addition to this the translator has compiled a very exhaustive pedigree of the various branches of these French Walshes who were distinguished by their loyalty to Stuarts and Bourbons alike; so much so that Louis XVIII. when reviewing what was left of the Walsh Regiment of the Irish Brigade gave them the motto “Semper et ubique fideles”. Mr. Brown also deserves much credit for publishing a map of the line of route taken by the “Du Trillay” after it had arrived in Scotland, based upon Captain Durbé's log. We are glad to be able to welcome this translation. The original work was only accessible to a small number of those who are interested in the Jacobite movement.

“Ships and Shipping.” Edited by Francis Miltoun. London: Moring. 1903. 5s. net.

This is a well-got-up, handy, but worthless little volume. It is stated to be compiled for “intelligent landmen” and may—perhaps—serve to amuse the nursery: the small folk can read without harm that the chief steward is in charge of the corps of stewards, cooks and bakers and that a ship rolls when her sides rise and fall alternately, but should be cautioned not to believe that the Port of Alexandria is well or the Island of Ascension “strongly” fortified, that Shanghai is on the Yangtse or that Capetown is the station of the Cape and West African Squadron. They may be told Aden is sometimes called the Gibraltar of the East but not Singapore, and so on, and so on. However humble the book, inaccuracy in bookmaking is unpardonable.

“The Army of the Indian Moguls.” By W. Irvine. London: Luzac. 1903. 8s. 6d.

Though this work is hardly likely to appeal to very many, it contains much valuable and detailed information; and will make an exceedingly useful book of reference to this interesting subject.

In Helena Swan's “Dictionary of Contemporary Quotations” (Sonnenschein. 7s. 6d.) the man who is not exceptionally greedy can take his fill of the wisdom and beauty of most of the great bards of to-day. But we are cantankerous enough to grumble at the intrusion of several dead and gone writers. What does Tennyson in this galley and William Cullen Bryant? There is one thing—they don't get more than their share of consecutive lines. A piece is chopped out of Bryant's “Waterfowl”: one had not recognised before how aimless bits of Bryant could be, severed from their contexts.

The National Library which Messrs. Cassell are publishing includes a selection from the “Diary of John Evelyn” (1s.). It is a useful little instalment, but as Mr. Austin Dobson says in his preface it is to be hoped that a complete and thoroughly revised edition based on the original text only will one day be published by Evelyn's descendants. The best thing in this part of the Diary is perhaps the firmly drawn character sketch of Charles II. No historian of the reign and times could overlook this and other passages in Evelyn.

The thirty-ninth volume of the “Antiquary” (Elliot Stock. 7s. 6d.) is like its predecessors full of good treasure trove. The print, paper, articles and editing are excellent. Essex Brasses and Ancient Coffers and Cupboards are among the attractive and informed articles. In the previous volume Mr. Charles Dawson wrote an interesting paper on the old Sussex iron-works, firebricks from which are fetching such high prices to-day. In this volume he writes on Sussex pottery.

Mr. Fry has made his new magazine include a great width of subjects. The “note”, if one may judge by Mr. Fry's opening article and the reproduction of Mr. Watts' statue, is the exaltation of “Physical energy”. But to us the more strictly athletic part of the magazine is much the best and will meet the widest support. The illustrations of golfing and cricket attitudes are admirable and the magazine will best justify itself by keeping up the idea that every subject should be treated by the specialist in each department. Cricket, football, golf and motoring are all well treated and the occasional notes are sensible.

THEOLOGY.

"An Introduction to the Early History of Christian Doctrine to the Time of the Council of Chalcedon." By J. F. Bethune-Baker. London: Methuen. 1903. 10s. 6d.

Mr. Bethune-Baker's book is a substantial octavo of over 400 pages, and so stands midway between the great dogmatic treatises which both the Roman Catholics and the German Protestants love to produce, and the slender and superficial handbooks which sometimes emanate from our own Church. It is a solid contribution to English Theology; the author considers the main Christian doctrines one by one, giving first a concise and carefully written introduction, then a history written with a considerable amount of detail, and finally a series of additional notes on the principal terms or events which have passed under review. The historical part, as is perhaps inevitable, tends to present us with the usual things in the usual manner; but the introductions are thoughtful and the notes learned; these are really the most valuable parts of the book. There are some defects in arrangement and the author in consequence occasionally repeats himself; after a fairly complete note on *oúria* and *úroúraia* on p. 116 we have the whole subject treated again on p. 235, while substantia and persona receive double attention on p. 138 and p. 231; but these are slight flaws in an excellent piece of work. Mr. Bethune-Baker writes as a staunch Churchman whose position is sure and who yet takes a broad view of his subject; he gets more interesting, too, as he proceeds; his latter chapters are better reading than the earlier; and his sympathetic account of what good there was in Nestorianism, his notes on the word *theopapós* and on Tertullian's idea of "merit" are better than anything we have seen in English for a long time.

"The Gospel and the Church." By Alfred Loisy. Translated by Christopher Home. London: Isbister. 1903. 3s. 6d.

We are glad that M. Loisy's book is translated into English, and that people who have read Harnack's "What is Christianity?" may now be able to read the ablest criticism of it that has yet appeared, for M. Loisy is a formidable opponent. His book is interesting; it is characteristically French; it shows how a French critic approaches a problem and where his strength lies in dealing with it. As a rule he is not good at the patient collection and examination of data; few French books have a tolerable index; the French mind is too brilliant, and moves too rapidly for these slow laborious methods. But when it is a question of theories, of seizing and bringing out the leading ideas of a book or a movement, then the Frenchman is in his element. And so here in criticising Harnack's theory of the leading ideas of the Gospel, of the Saviour's teaching as to the Kingdom of Heaven, or His own relation to the Father, M. Loisy is admirable; he writes fearlessly and yet reverently, and shows real genius in Biblical Theology. The only doubt that comes over us is one that we often feel when reading a French book: a doubt whether the author is not too clever. The epigrams come so often, and the opponent's positions are demolished with such grace and with so little apparent effort that we cannot get rid of a suspicion that any position could, if necessary, be attacked or defended with equal readiness and success.

"Studies in Saintship." Translated from the French of Ernest Hello; with an introduction by Virginia M. Crawford. London: Methuen. 1903. 3s. 6d.

This book consists of biographical essays on various Christian saints by a devout and gifted Frenchman; beginning with Chrysostom and ending with Margaret Mary Alacoque, the selection is wide. Mr. Hello writes with admirable judgment of character; nothing can be better than his appreciation of Chrysostom and Augustine. But he is totally devoid of the power of criticising his sources; he accepts every tradition as equally true. To readers outside the Roman Church the book will however be interesting from the gradual alteration, not to say deterioration, in the idea of saintliness which the biographies disclose. Chrysostom, Augustine, Bernard, were great and noble men, whose lives and writings have left their mark on the world, and wrung admiration from opponents and unbelievers. But of saints like Joseph of Cupertino and Margaret Mary Alacoque the biographer has to confess that they were cast in a very small and poor mould; the main claims to saintship which are preferred are the gift of falling into ecstasy and the power of working miracles; and such miracles! Of Joseph of Cupertino it is related that at the mere names of Jesus and Mary pronounced in his presence he sometimes quitted the earth and flew away even in his material form; one day when a monk remarked to him "What a beautiful sky God has made!" Joseph cried aloud, then flew away, and remained kneeling on the top of an olive tree; "the branch swayed as though beneath the weight of a bird. He remained there for about half an hour". S. Antony of Padua, we are told, was preaching in the open air when a storm burst. The crowd fled. "Stop", Antony called out; "no one will get wet." The rain drenched the ground all round, but not one of those who remained in their places got wet. Mr. Hello does not give the rationalistic explanation once suggested by an Oxford divine when describing a similar miracle—that it was a very dry sermon.

"The Second Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Corinthians" (Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges). Edited by A. Plummer. Cambridge: At the University Press. 1904. 1s. 6d. net.

Dr. Plummer's work is of a high order; it is a concise and able commentary on that beautiful but most puzzling letter, the Second Epistle to the Corinthians. The standard of the Cambridge Bible for Schools is high, and has been rising with the later volumes; many of them are the best hand, commentaries on the Bible books that we know, but we can say truly that this is a worthy addition to the series. Dr. Plummer has with reluctance given in to the partition theory of the Epistle and holds that the last four chapters belong to an earlier letter; it is a much argued question, and Dr. Bernard of Dublin has taken the other side in the recently published volume of the "Expositor's Greek Testament"; we cannot say Dr. Plummer has entirely convinced us, but his arguments are weighty: it is however in his notes on the text rather than in his introduction that he is at his best, though he is good in both.

"The Gospel according to S. Mark, the Greek text edited with introduction and notes, for the use of schools." By Sir A. F. Hort. Cambridge: At the University Press.

"S. Mark. The Revised Version edited with introduction and notes, for the use of schools." By Sir A. F. Hort and M. D. Hort (Mrs. George Chitty). Cambridge: At the University Press. 1904. 1s. 6d. net.

These are practically a longer and shorter edition of the same commentary. The introductions are the same in each case, and the notes in the second have been abbreviated from those in the first and also accommodated to the English version and to an audience that does not know Greek. The introduction is short but tells us most of what is necessary, and the notes though not very interesting or inspiring are at any rate workmanlike.

"Isaiah." Explained by W. E. Barnes. 2 vols. (The Churchman's Bible.) London: Methuen. 1901-3. 2s. net per vol.

This is not so much a schoolbook as a family book; any cultivated Churchman who wishes to understand the prophet, whose words are so closely bound up with the Advent, Christmas and Holy Week seasons, could hardly find a small work that would assist him so well as Professor Barnes' volumes. They are short, complete, interesting, and marked by sound and reverent criticism; and they may claim to have fulfilled their promise and really to have explained Isaiah to modern minds.

"Old Testament History for Schools." By T. C. Fry. London: Arnold. 1904. 2s. 6d.

Dr. Fry undertakes to teach the Old Testament to boys in the light of the higher criticism. We sympathise with the attempt, but cannot say that it is very successful; the author has yet to be found who will make the history of Israel really interesting and inspiring on these lines. Frankly, the historical part of Dr. Fry's work is dull, though some of his notes on the theological ideas and customs of the early Israelites are good.

"The Rights of a Particular Church in Matters of Practice." By W. E. Collins. (The Church Historical Society's Publications, No. LXXXII.) London: S.P.C.K. 1904. 4d.

The Church Historical Society has produced some admirable pamphlets, and the Bishop of Gibraltar's last contribution is one of the best. It is a careful examination of the theory and practice not only of the English Church, but also of the Roman and the Greek, as to ordaining or abolishing ceremonies and customs; and it is prefaced by an explanation of the term "Particular Church". No doubt Dr. Collins is right in asserting that the unit inside the Catholic Church is not the province but the diocese; and a national Church is a collection of dioceses but something more as well; it is bound together by a common life, yet connected with the life and history of the nation, and may reasonably claim in the present, as it has exercised in the past, a certain power to modify traditional customs "so that all things be done to edifying".

"The Tombs of the Popes: Landmarks in Papal History." By F. Gregorovius. Translated by R. W. Seton-Watson. London: Constable. 1903. 3s. 6d. net.

Ferdinand Gregorovius is best known to English readers by his "History of Rome in the Middle Ages"; the present work, which has been well translated and prefaced, and is the early sketch out of which the fuller history grew, has never been translated into English before. It is a rapid, able description not only of the tombs of the Popes but also of their lives, and contains a mass of detailed learning; it will be news for instance to many people to know that it was Nicholas II., in the eleventh century, who was first able to deprive the Roman people and nobility, and even the Emperor, of all share in the Papal elections and to place the decision completely in the hands of the Cardinals; or to learn that the Pope's triple tiara dates from Urban V., in the fourteenth. So long as the author

(Continued on page 370.)

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confines himself to history and archaeology he is interesting; but when he indulges in moral reflections the dulness of the German Protestant shows itself; what Frenchman could have written "it is but a narrow space that holds the dust of men who in their day convulsed the history of the world", or "the fate of Popes is no better than that of the lowliest of men; only in so exalted a position the common lot of ingratitude is all the more striking and revolting"? The book is furnished with some very good illustrations of Papal tombs.

"Lent and Holy Week: Chapters on Catholic Observance and Ritual." By Herbert Thurston. London: Longmans. 1904. 6s. net.

Father Thurston has produced a book which may be read with pleasure and advantage by members of the Anglican as well as of the Roman Church. It is a popular account of the traditional ceremonies, many of them of extreme beauty, which have gathered round the seasons of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. He claims in his preface that though writing from the point of view of his own Church he is not in any way controversial; and he makes his claim good. English Churchmen who read his book will learn much about ancient practice but will not find anything that will pain them. The author writes in admirable taste, with sufficient learning, and with a faculty of clear explanation which is not always possessed by learned authors; he does not take too much for granted. He is not afraid to criticise modern fashions when they are bad, and he uses strong language about the "fiddle-pattern cardboard-lined abomination, the modern French chasuble".

"Loyalty to the Prayer Book." By P. Dearmer. Oxford and London: Mowbray. 1904. 2d.; cloth, 6d.

At a time when agitators are pressing M.P.'s, and M.P.'s pressing the Government on "disorders in the Church", a tract like Mr. Percy Dearmer's is opportune. Addressed mainly to the clergy, it is a useful reminder to them of what loyalty to the Prayer Book really means; but if it could be distributed amongst the laity it would open many eyes and prevent many hasty complaints. We are not very hopeful that the good results the author predicts would everywhere follow from the adoption of his methods; however, he assures us that he speaks from experience, and in these matters an ounce of experience is worth a pound of criticism.

"What is 'Christian Science'?" By C. E. Little. London: S.P.C.K. 1904. 2d.

We suppose this particular craze is still growing and that it is necessary to expose and denounce it from the pulpit. Dean Lefroy published some lectures on it a little while ago, but they were rather too denunciatory; we are inclined to think that Mr. Little's sermon errs in the same direction, though it is not without some shrewd scores. It gives, also, a fairly good series of quotations from Mrs. Eddy's own works; and to the average reader we think these ought to be their own refutation.

CLERICAL REFERENCE BOOKS.

"Crockford's Clerical Directory 1904." London: Horace Cox. 1904. 20s.

It has been a jealously guarded custom that the editor of "Crockford" shall be unknown. Three years ago death lifted the veil, and the secret of twenty-seven years was divulged. But the custom—we think it a good custom—is continued; and the two editors responsible for the last three issues have remained unknown. The present editor has been in office only a few months, and the publication of the present volume has been beset with difficulties. It does not seem to have suffered in accuracy, and some improvements have been introduced. It will be well worth while for the new editor to consider the possibility of reducing its bulk. The preface lacks the piquancy that marked it for so many years. It consists largely of matter repeated from year to year and three-quarters of it might well be omitted. The attempt to add the name of each clergyman's school to his biographical notice has proved a failure. It will probably be abandoned. It is necessary that a man's antecedents should be registered so far as his University life is concerned, but little is gained by tracing them further back. The term "curate" is still retained in the index of parishes, instead of the more accurate term "assistant curate". This has provoked a vigorous protest to the editor which is worth quoting: "My Assistant is not *my* Curate. He has not been appointed to take care of me, neither is he 'mine' in the sense that he is my servant. He is my Assistant, and has been licensed by the Bishop to serve as such. I am the Curate. Another has been appointed to assist me in the discharge of the duties which devolve on me as such. You may consider this a trivial matter, but I know from experience that it is far otherwise. 'The Curate'—'Your Curate', though a Priest, may be looked upon as an inferior Order in the Ministry, and treated as such even by too many of the Clergy." There is truth in this, though we fear it is too late to protest against a misuse of a term which has become all but universal. We notice that a mistake upon which we commented last year has not been repeated. The names of those ordained in Advent have been inserted in their proper places in the body of the book, instead of being placed by themselves in an

appendix. It is satisfactory that the other appendix, containing the names of clergy who cannot be traced by the editor, is growing shorter.

"The Clergy Directory 1904." London: Phillips. 1904. 4s. 6d.

Though the editor "makes no claim to perfect accuracy" his book is well edited. The information given is brought well up to date, changes are noted which took place only a week or two before the book was issued. This is the thirty-fourth annual issue and it contains one substantial improvement. The patronage of livings has heretofore been indicated by a figure referring to the names set out in a "List of Patrons". In this issue the name of the patron has been inserted in each case, thus avoiding the loss of time involved by cross reference. The volume has, of course, its limitations, but it contains all that one can reasonably expect.

"The Church Annual Log Book 1904." London: Church Newspaper Company. 1904. 2s.

The information given in this book is gathered for the most part from the Church newspapers and the daily press, and of course is not official. There are sections dealing with the clerical appointments during the year, the chief events of each diocese, Church matters in Parliament, the proceedings of all the Church societies, and general Church news. Nothing seems to have escaped the editor's net—not even debates on Church questions in the Oxford and Cambridge Union Societies. There is a useful index, and we are promised an additional chapter next year dealing with the year's Church literature. There is no trace of party bias in the book.

"The London Diocese Book 1904." London: Spottiswoode. 1904. 1s. 6d.

The drastic changes introduced last year by Prebendary Glendinning Nash have made this book one of the best of all the Diocesan calendars. Some further re-arrangement has taken place this year which makes generally for clearness. No explanation is given why the price has been raised from 1s. to 1s. 6d., but the book is not dear now. It is a mistake to place a bulky folded map in the middle of the general index; it should be at the end of the volume.

The Catholic Directory, Ecclesiastical Register and Almanac, is the indispensable guide to Roman Catholic offices, dignitaries and orders. It is produced under the direction of the Right Rev. Mgr. Provost Johnson and published by Messrs. Burns and Oates. The issue for 1904 is the sixty-seventh annual publication.

For This Week's Books see page 372.

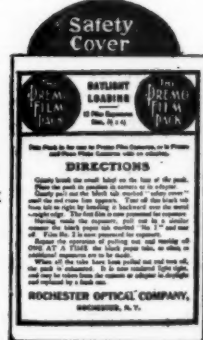
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The Secretary (Mr. Thomas Newell) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The report stated that the profit, including £5,714 brought forward from last year, and after charging renewals and repairs and providing for bad and doubtful debts, amounted to £84,237. After deducting directors' fees, income tax, &c., there remained £75,855, which the directors proposed should be dealt with as stated in the "proposed appropriation of profits" account, which provided for a further dividend on the ordinary shares at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum for the six months ending December 31, 1903 (making 10 per cent. for the year 1903), and the carrying forward of £15,174 to the next account. The reserve account is increased to £70,687, and the amount standing to the credit of the ordinary shareholders' undivided profits account to £55,161. A further loss on valuing Consols of £1,237 has been charged against profit. On the incorporation of the Company, in 1896, the Company acquired an option to purchase the freehold of the premises in Dover Street, Mayfair, where the London branch of the business is carried on. During the past year this option was exercised, and the purchase of the premises was completed, the Company now being the owner and occupier of this important freehold extending from Dover Street to Berkeley Street.

The Chairman, in proposing the report, said that although the year 1903 was a disastrous one for many industrial concerns, they were able to show a record of sales and profits. The Company had continued to expand at a rate and had produced results which he ventured to say would meet with the shareholders' entire satisfaction. He said that by common consent the creations of MM. Paquin for this season were super-excellent, and fully bore out the promise made by M. Paquin at their last meeting that he and Madame Paquin, who had worked hard in the past to achieve such brilliant results, would continue their whole-hearted efforts on their (the shareholders') behalf. Indeed, the taste and skill constantly exercised by the staff were admittedly unsurpassed by any other house in the trade, and enabled the firm of Paquin to maintain its established position in the very front rank of costumiers. The forthcoming display of gowns and millinery at the St. Louis Exhibition, which would exhibit the beautiful creations of this season, could not fail to make Paquin models still more popular in American society.

Sir Alfred Newton, Bart., seconded the motion. Mr. Westrop raised the question, commented upon by a contemporary, about the Company's book debts being very much larger than they were in the previous balance-sheet.

In reply, the Chairman said he had great pleasure in giving the usual answer to that question. He hoped that when they next met the book debts would be even larger, and he was sure they had written down more freely this year than they had ever done before, because they had had such an extraordinary year. They had every year made a profit on what they put aside as bad and doubtful, and as far as the shareholders were concerned they could rest assured that every possible attention was paid to the credit given and that every care was taken, and he had never known a first-class business such as theirs was make so few bad debts—as a matter of fact, they worked out at a shade over 1 per cent.

The motion was carried unanimously.

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CROWN REEF GOLD MINING COMPANY, LTD.

DECLARATION OF DIVIDEND No. 29.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Dividend of 90 per cent. (being at the rate of 180 per cent. per annum) has been declared by the Board for the half-year ending 31st March, 1904, payable to Shareholders registered in the books of the Company at the close of business at 4 p.m. on Friday, 25th of March, 1904, and to holders of Coupon No. 17 attached to Share Warrants to Bearer. The Transfer Registers will be closed from the 26th of March to the 1st of April, 1904, both days inclusive. The Warrants will be despatched to registered European Shareholders from the London Office, and will probably be in the hands of Shareholders about the 29th of April.

ANDREW MOIR, London Secretary.

London Office, No. 1 London Wall Buildings, E.C.
16th March, 1904.

GLEN DEEP, LIMITED.

From the Directors' Quarterly Report to January 31, 1904.

Total Yield in Fine Gold from all sources 16,609'316 ozs.
Total Yield in Fine Gold per ton on tonnage milled basis .. 7'916 dwts.

WORKING EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE.

Dr.	Cost.	Cost per ton milled.
To Mining Expenses	£25,927 7 3	£0 12 4'297
Milling Expenses	5,108 13 0	0 2 5'210
Cyaniding Expenses	4,142 13 6	0 2 5'414
General Expenses	3,707 5 9	0 1 9'204
Head Office Expenses	1,705 14 11	0 0 9'756

Working Profit	41,589 10 5	0 19 9'883
	28,374 10 2	0 13 6'294
	£69,964 9 7	£1 13 4'178

Cr.	Value.	Value per ton milled.
By Gold Account	£69,964 9 7	£1 13 4'178

Dr.	
To Interest	£693 16 8
Net Profit	27,680 13 6
	£28,374 10 2

Cr.	
By Balance Working Profit brought down	£28,374 10 2

NOTE.—The 10 per cent. Tax on Profits which has been imposed by the Government of the Transvaal has not been allowed for in the above figures.
The Capital Expenditure for the quarter has amounted to £2,482 3s. 4d.

LANGLAAGTE DEEP, LIMITED.

From the Directors' Quarterly Report to January 31, 1904.

Total Yield in Fine Gold from all sources 16,164'813 ozs.
Total Yield in Fine Gold per ton on tonnage milled basis .. 6'566 dwts.

WORKING EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE.

Dr.	Cost.	Cost per ton milled.
To Mining Expenses	£35,094 7 8	£0 14 3'084
Milling Expenses	5,279 13 5	0 2 1'738
Cyaniding Expenses	5,104 19 10	0 2 0'886
General Expenses	4,496 12 11	0 1 9'221
Head Office Expenses	1,782 2 11	0 0 8'687

Working Profit	51,757 16 9	1 1 0'313
	16,296 0 6	0 6 7'442
	£68,053 17 3	£1 7 7'761

Cr.	Value.	Value per ton milled.
By Gold Account	£68,053 17 3	£1 7 7'761

Dr.	
To Interest	£4,290 15 8
Net Profit	12,005 4 10
	£16,296 0 6

Cr.	
By Balance Working Profit brought down	£16,296 0 6

NOTE.—The 10 per cent. Tax on Profits which has been imposed by the Government of the Transvaal has not been allowed for in the above figures.
The Capital Expenditure for the quarter has amounted to £3,094 8s. 9d.

HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

SEVENTY-SEVENTH REPORT

Of the Court of Directors to the Ordinary Half-yearly General Meeting of Shareholders, held at the City Hall, Hongkong, on the 20th February, 1904.

TO THE PROPRIETORS OF THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

GENTLEMEN,—The Directors have now to submit to you a General Statement of the affairs of the Bank, and Balance-Sheet for the half-year ending 31st December, 1903.

The net profits for that period, including \$1,435,683.17, balance brought forward from last account, after paying all charges, deducting interest paid and due, and making provision for bad and doubtful accounts, amount to \$3,771,886.08.

The Directors recommend the transfer of \$500,000 from the Profit and Loss Account to credit of the Silver Reserve Fund, which fund will then stand at \$6,500,000.

After making this Transfer and deducting Remuneration to Directors, there remains for appropriation \$3,250,886.08, out of which the Directors recommend the payment of a Dividend of One Pound and Ten Shillings Sterling per Share, which at 4s. 6d. will absorb \$533,333.33, and a Bonus of Ten Shillings Sterling per Share, which at 4s. 6d. will absorb \$177,777.78.

The difference in Exchange between 4s. 6d., the rate at which the Dividend and Bonus are declared, and 1s. 8½d., the rate of the day, amounts to \$1,128,408.89.

The Balance \$1,417,366.08 to be carried to New Profit and Loss Account.

DIRECTORS.

Mr. A. J. RAYMOND has been elected Chairman for the year 1904 and Mr. H. E. TOMKINS Deputy Chairman.

The Honourable R. SHEWAN having resigned his seat on leaving the Colony, Mr. C. A. TOMES has been invited to fill the vacancy; the appointment requires confirmation at this Meeting.

Mr. E. GOETZ and the Honourable C. W. DICKSON retire in rotation, but being eligible for re-election offer themselves accordingly.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. W. HUTTON POTTS and Mr. A. G. WOOD; the latter acting for the Honourable C. S. SHARP, who is absent from the Colony.

The Honourable C. S. SHARP, who is shortly returning to the Colony, and Mr. W. HUTTON POTTS offer themselves for re-election.

A. J. RAYMOND,

Chairman.

HONGKONG, 2nd February, 1904.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

ABSTRACT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

31st December, 1903.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Paid-up Capital	\$10,000,000.00	Cash	\$38,366,269.91
Sterling Reserve Fund	10,000,000.00	Coin lodged with the Hongkong Government against Note Circulation in excess of \$10,000,000	8,500,000.00
Silver Reserve Fund	6,000,000.00	Bullion in Hand and in Transit	7,824,187.16
Marine Insurance Account	250,000.00	Indian Government Rupee Paper	1,917,919.12
Notes in Circulation:—		Consols, Colonial and Other Securities	8,784,467.39
Authorised Issue against Securities deposited with the Crown Agents for the Colonies	\$10,000,000.00	Sterling Reserve Fund Investments, viz.:—	
Additional Issue authorised by Hongkong Ordinance No. 19 of 1900, against Coin lodged with the Hongkong Government	6,259,244.00	£570,000 2½ Per Cent. Consols at 85	£484,500
		(of which £250,000 lodged with the Bank of England as a Special London Reserve.)	
Current { Silver	\$74,787,644.85	£255,000 2½ Per Cent. National War Loan } at 90	229,500
Accounts { Gold	£1,945,897 5s. 3d. = 22,331,487.89	£325,000 Other Sterling Securities, written down to	286,000
			£1,000,000
Fixed { Silver	\$46,121,565.85		10,000,000.00
Deposits { Gold	£4,991,925 5s. 7d. = 57,387,016.14	Bills Discounted, Loans and Credits	80,900,177.72
		Bills Receivable	101,142,859.93
Bills Payable (including Drafts on London Bankers, Call Loans and Short Sight Drawings on London Office against Bills Receivable and Bullion Shipments)	20,882,914.5	Bank Premises	1,355,078.53
Profit and Loss Account	3,771,886.08		
Liability on Bills of Exchange re-discounted, £6,619,859 7s. 4d., of which up to this date £4,323,093 have run off.			
	\$267,791,759.36		\$267,791,759.36

GENERAL PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

31st December, 1903.

Dr.		Cr.
To Amounts Written Off:—		By Balance of Undivided Profits, 30th June, 1903 ..
Remuneration to Directors	\$15,000.00	" Amount of Net Profits for the Six Months ending 31st December, 1903, after making provision for bad and doubtful debts, deducting all Expenses and Interest paid and due
Dividend Account:—		
£1 10s. per Share on 80,000 Shares = £120,000 at 4s. 6d.	533,333.33	
Bonus of 10s. per Share on 80,000 Shares = £40,000 at 4s. 6d.	177,777.78	
Dividend Adjustment Account:—		
Difference in Exchange between 4s. 6d., the rate at which the Dividend and Bonus are declared, and 1s. 8½d., the rate of the day	1,128,408.89	
Transfer to Silver Reserve Fund	500,000.00	
Balance forward to next half-year	1,417,366.08	
	\$3,771,886.08	\$3,771,886.08

STERLING RESERVE FUND.

To Balance	\$10,000,000.00	By Balance 30th June, 1903	\$10,000,000.00
		(Invested in Sterling Securities.)	
	\$10,000,000.00		\$10,000,000.00

SILVER RESERVE FUND.

To Balance	\$6,500,000.00	By Balance 30th June, 1903	\$6,000,000.00
		Transfer from Profit and Loss Account	500,000.00
	\$6,500,000.00		\$6,500,000.00

J. R. M. SMITH, Chief Manager.

C. W. MAY, Acting Chief Accountant.

A. J. RAYMOND,
H. E. TOMKINS,
E. GOETZ, } Directors.

W. HUTTON POTTS,
A. G. WOOD, } Auditors.

We have compared the above Statement with the Books, Vouchers and Securities at the Head Office, and with the Returns from the various Branches and Agencies, and have found the same to be correct.

HONGKONG, 2nd February, 1904.

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